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THE
UNITED BRETHREN'S
Missionary Intelligencer,
AND
RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY;
CONTAINING
THE MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE UNITED BRETHREN'S MISSIONS AMONG THE HEATHEN;
With other interesting Communications from the Records of that Church.

No. XI. THIRD QUARTER, 1824. Vol. I.

Missionary Accounts contained in Letters from various Stations.

LABRADOR.

Letters received in 1823 *from the Settlements on the Coast of* Labrador, *to the Brethren's Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel.*

From Hopedale, *August* 10, 1823.

"Dearest Brethren—Who is able to describe the marvellous works of the Lord, and the gracious dealings of our God and Saviour with His people! We confess with our whole hearts, that we are not worthy of the least of all His mercies, and of all His truth. Numberless have been His mercies bestowed upon us, during the year past, and He has now again granted us that great favour, to see the Harmony arrive with us, having protected her from the dangers of the sea and ice, and conducted her in peace and safety into our harbour. This joyful event took place on the 27th of July, the ship being favoured with the finest weather and wind for her entrance. We rejoiced to receive the Captain, the Brethren Taylor and Morhardt, and the Sisters Morhardt, Fisher, and Zippel, all well in health and thankful for the protection of God, experienced on their voyage. They had encountered some strong gales, and during the 24th, 25th, and 26th, were beset with ice so closely pressing upon them, that they with difficulty forced their way through it. The wind was however moderate, and the weather fine, and though the ship received some violent shocks, from the ice driving against her, yet no damage was done. For two nights they were obliged, for safety's sake, to fasten her by grapples to large fields of ice. We soon met together, to offer up prayer, praise,

and thanksgiving to the Father of all mercies, for so many repeated proofs of His loving kindness towards us.

"On reading your affectionate letter of the 23d of May, we were deeply affected by the expression of your heartfelt participation in the concerns of this mission, and in our individual welfare. We felt united with you in the same faith, and in one Covenant to devote ourselves out of love and gratitude, to the service of that Saviour, who has done so much for us, that we may be favoured to gather in souls as the reward of His death and suffering, from amongst this heathen nation, and under the guidance of His Holy Spirit, to lead them in the way of life eternal. May He lay His blessing upon your faithful exertions, and on all you do in His name.

"We heard with sorrow, that you have experienced a great loss in the departure of Brother Lefebvre, whom it has pleased our Saviour to call into everlasting bliss. All of us knew him personally, and can bear witness to the faithfulness he showed in all things committed unto him.

"During the year past, our Lord and Saviour has shown much mercy unto us, and preserved us in the enjoyment of peace and brotherly love. With the exception of occasional slight indispositions, we have all been favoured with good health, and enabled to perform our several duties without interruption, being greatly encouraged by percieving that our labour was not in vain in the Lord. He has granted us to see some pleasing fruit, among the souls committed to our care, and has blessed the ministry of His Gospel.

"Some of our Esquimaux have experienced the particular protection of God, in the preservation of their lives. On the 16th of November last year, a young man upset in his kayak in a current at sea, by which he was carried a great way before his companions could come up to his rescue. *Amos* being in his kayak fishing, a white fish (a species of whale) dashed against and overset his kayak. By a kind Providence it happened that several men were near, by whom he was delivered from drowning, but his gun and other implements were all lost, which to a poor Esquimaux is always a very great misfortune: he was, however, very thankful to have his life preserved on account of his large family. *Nathaniel* the son of *Abia*, a young baptized Esquimaux, was in imminent danger, having broken through the ice at a place, where it was so weak, that with all his exertions, he could not get hold of a firm part to lift himself out, the ice around the hole into which he fell breaking beneath his arms. He cried in his distress unto the Lord for help, and was mercifully heard, having at length been enabled to support himself and work his way out. His parents were particularly thankful for his preservation. *Nicodemus* was overset by a seal, and very narrowly escaped with his life; he would probably have perished, had not some other brethren hastened to his assistance, being made aware of his danger by a boy who saw him upset from a neighbouring hill, and gave immediate information. While he was floating in his overturned kayak, he did all in his power to keep himself fast in it, but the cold was so intense that he could hardly grasp it, and on being brought

ashore, showed but few signs of life. We did all we could to restore him, and after some hours the means used proved successful. His thankfulness for his preservation was expressed more by tears than words. Our Esquimaux had in general a sufficient supply of food in winter, for which we gave thanks to our heavenly Father; and in spring the seal fishing turned out abundant.

"As to their spiritual course, we cannot find words sufficient to express our thankfulness for the mercy, truth, and grace of our Saviour, made manifest among them. Most of them have grown in grace and in the knowledge and love of Jesus; they know that His atonement and meritorious death are the foundation of all their hopes, and experience the power of the word of the Cross in their souls. Of this not only their expressions, but their walk and conversation have testified. The solemn festivals of the Christian church, the daily worship, and especially the celebration of the Holy Communion, were seasons of great blessing, when we were truly refreshed by the presence of our Lord and Saviour.

"The Esquimaux delight in music, and as several of them can play hymn tunes on the violin, they accompany the singing of the congregation and the performance of some short anthems, which the children and young people have learnt to sing. This contributes to the solemnity and beauty of our worship, especially at festival seasons; and we have heard many pleasing and edifying remarks made upon it by our people. As the Esquimaux learn to accompany hymns and anthems with great ease, we are sorry that we have so few violins for them. An organ would also powerfully support the singing.

"When we reflect on the proofs we have had of the faithfulness of Jesus, the good Shepherd, and how He leads His sheep, and feeds them with the sweet pasture of His word, bringing back such as have strayed, and how He blesses our feeble testimony of His love to mankind, and of His sufferings and death for our salvation, we bow in the dust before Him, with hearts filled with humble joy and gratitude. We can declare with truth, that the work of His Holy Spirit in the hearts of the members of our Esquimaux congregation has not been in vain, but they have been more deeply and firmly grounded on Christ the Rock. During the year past, two adults and nine children were baptized, one person partook for the first time of the Lord's Supper; one was received into the congregation, two were appointed candidates for baptism, and five for the Holy Communion. One child and one adult departed this life. The congregation at Hopedale consists of fifty-six communicants, seven condidates; twenty-one baptized not yet communicants, twelve candidates, and three unbaptized; total, including children, 179 persons.

"*August 4th*, two post-kayaks, which were sent to Nain to bring the welcome intelligence of the arrival of the ship, returned to us, when we were informed by a letter from Brother Kohlmeister, that Brother Morhardt was appointed to stay with us, and Brother Glitsch, who has served this mission one year, to go to Nain. May the Lord bless them in their new stations.

"For all the necessaries of life, with which you have again so abundantly supplied us, we return you our cordial thanks, and pray the Lord to bless and reward you and all our dear friends, and to be with you always, according to His gracious promise. Firmly united with you in Jesus we remain ever, your most affectionate Brethren and Sisters.

(Signed) SAMUEL MEISNER, JOHN PETER STOCK,
ZACHARY GLITSCH, JOHN CHRISTIAN BECK.

From NAIN.

August 3d, 1823.

"DEAREST BRETHREN—We were truly thankful to our gracious heavenly Father, when on the 31st of July, two post kayaks brought us the welcome intelligence, that the Harmony had arrived safe at Hopedale, on the 27th. Your kind letter of May 27th was received at the same time, and afforded us great pleasure and encouragement; we are always refreshed anew by your kind participation in our welfare, and in the progress of this mission, and strengthened in our labours in this remote part of our Lord's vineyard, in which we endeavour through His grace, to preach the word of His cross, and in faith and dependence on His power, to do our work amidst all difficulties and painful occurrences. How comfortable is it for us to know, that so many of God's people support us by their prayers, and long for the coming of His kingdom, when, the fulness of the Gentiles shall become the reward for the travail of His soul.

"We join you in praising the Lord for conducting the ship so safely to you last year, and, notwithstanding all the dangers of this coast, bringing her again to us with all the provision and stores necessary for our subsistence, by which we are enabled, without any dread of outward want, to attend to our respective duties.

"Many are the instances, which we might quote as proofs, that the word of the Cross is indeed the power of God unto salvation to all them that hear and believe. A few we will subjoin, by which you will be excited to extol the mercy and love of our Saviour towards poor repenting sinners. A communicant, who had been prevented from coming to see us, expressed himself thus: 'Whenever the day approaches, that you celebrate the Holy Communion, and I cannot be with you, my spirit is sorrowful within me, but it seeks to be present among you, and I then feel the nearness of Jesus for my comfort, and am very thankful to Him. Now, that I may be with you this time, I am the more rejoiced to partake of His body and blood in the Holy Sacrament.'

"A widow, who had grown old in the abominations of heathenism, said: 'I have been meditating on the words of our Saviour in St. Matthew's Gospel, ix. 12, 13, which I heard yesterday in the sermon—*They that be whole need not a Physician but they that are sick;* and I could not sleep last night for admiration and joy.' She then mentioned other texts she had remembered—*I will have mercy and not sacrifice;*

and—*I am come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*, and bursting into tears, exclaimed: 'Thus our Saviour has dealt with me, for I was dead in sin, but He has pardoned and added me to His flock.'

"A man, who, after remaining long in the class of candidates for baptism, has at length attained to all the privileges of the church, said: 'What thanks shall I render unto my Saviour, that He has had mercy upon me, and drawn me to Himself. I feel that I am still very deficient, but I am His; I pray that when in spring we go away to seek food in distant places, I may not be led astray and forget Him. Formerly, before I was a communicant, I used to be glad that I gained that time, and could spend it uninterruptedly in catching seals, but now I do not care for them, but seek food for my poor soul, and to receive a new and abiding impression of the death and sufferings of Jesus for me.' A single Sister expressed herself thus: 'I will remain sitting under the Cross of Jesus, where he bled and died for me. It is there, where I am happy and blessed, and there Jesus takes away all my sins and bad thoughts.' A communicant, and father of a large family, said: 'Who am I, and what are my children that Jesus shows so much mercy unto us! Should we not be quite devoted to Him! yes, indeed, I feel that He has compassion on the poor and orphans, and takes care that they get food and subsistence. O that we could thank and praise Him for it as He deserves! I was much distressed to think how I might provide for my own, and my sister's family, who is a widow with four small children; but it has pleased God to let me take twenty seals, and thus to have enough for some time. All this I ascribe to the mercy and compassion of Jesus!'

"During the last winter we perceived with great gratitude, the traces of renewed spiritual life among our dear Esquimaux. In the beginning of the season, the enemy contrived, by means of some insincere persons, to create confusion among the young people, but it pleased the Lord to open their hearts to receive admonition and direction from His holy word, and to consider what Jesus had done and suffered to redeem them, insomuch that we had cause to rejoice over the change effected in their walk and conversation. The schools and daily worship were well attended. The scholars showed eagerness to learn, and great diligence, and at the examination held with them, they all, but especially the little ones, afforded us much pleasure and edification. The Esquimaux, both young and old, expressed with great feeling, their thankfulness for the collection of hymns, translated by the Brethren, Martin and Schmidtman. It is sent this year, dear Brethren, with a petition both from the Missionaries and their congregations, that you would have it printed, being assured that both for use in the church, and for private meditation, it will be attended with the Lord's special blessing. Some of the more aged of our people observed, that perhaps they might not enjoy the favour of making use of this collection of hymns, as it would be a great expense to their dear fathers and benefactors on the other side of the great water to print it. They knew indeed that they loved the Esquimaux very much, of which they had given frequent proofs by sending them many printed books. They added: O that the

love of our dear friends beyond the great waters may not cease towards the poor Esquimaux nation! We are too poor to send them any quantity of blubber towards the expense, and to show these dear friends our thankfulness and our great desire to obtain this collection of hymns, but the Lord our Saviour will reward them, and bless them in soul and body, and we shall always pray for those our benefactors. Some of the most diligent brought some blubber to send to the Society, with many humble excuses that it was so little, but as they were very poor, they hoped it would be considered as the widow's mite.

"The winter was moderate, and the thermometer did not fall to 26 below 0 of Fahrenheit, till the end of February. In March and April there was a great fall of snow, which lay from thirteen to fourteen feet deep behind our houses. The Esquimaux were not very successful in catching seals, in kayaks or with nets, and thus those, who were not attentive to the salmon and cod fishing, were reduced to distress for want of food. We were therefore obliged, as well as the more successful among them, to come to the assistance of the most needy, especially of the widows and orphans. We wish that such experience might make some of them more diligent and attentive in using the means Providence puts in their way for their support. No contagious disorders appeared among them last year. Three adults and seven children were baptized; five persons were admitted to the Lord's Supper; four were received into the congregation; one departed this life. The number of inhabitants in this settlement is 181.

"Our family has been increased by the birth of Paul Gustavus Lundberg on the 12th of August. Most of us have enjoyed good health, but Brother Kohlmeister and his wife have suffered various attacks of illness. At present they are tolerably well. Our aged Brother Schmidtman and his wife have also been very ailing during the last winter, but are better. Our family-worship, the meetings of our congregation at church, baptismal transactions, communions and celebrations of festivals, have always proved seasons of blessing and refreshment to our souls by the presence of our Saviour in the midst of us.

"August 15th, the Harmony arrived safe in our harbour. We rejoiced again to bid our worthy Captain Fraser and Brother Taylor and other friends welcome to this country, as likewise Brother Z. Glitsch from Hopedale as our future fellow-labourer, and the two Sisters J. E. Zippel and Mary Fischer from Europe. On the 19th was the marriage of Brother Christian Benedict Henn with Sister Zippel. We commend them in prayer to the Lord, that He would lay His blessing upon them, and grant them His help and strength, faithfully to serve Him in that station to which He has called them. May He also bless and reward you and the many benefactors to our Missions, and grant you all in full measure to experience the truth of His gracious word—*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my Brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

"We covenant anew with you, dear Brethren, to be faithful, through the grace of our Saviour, in proclaiming the word of life, and inviting lost sinners to obtain salvation by faith in the merits of Jesus our Saviour. Upon His mercy and strength alone we rely for success in our

labours. May He, by His Holy Spirit, open the ears and hearts of the Esquimaux nation more and more, to receive His precious word, confirming in their individual experience, what we make known unto them in His name. We remain ever, dear Brethren, your affectionate Brethren and Sisters at Nain.

(Signed) B. G. Kohlmeister, John Koerner,
C. Benedict Henn, Adam Kunath,
George Schmidtman, John Lundberg."

From Okkak, *August* 27, 1823.

"Dear Brethren—We received your affectionate letter of the 3d of May on the 5th instant, together with the joyful intelligence that the Harmony had arrived safe at Hopedale on the 27th of July. We were thereby greatly encouraged to proceed in our important calling with renewed zeal and faithfulness, seeing that we may rest assured that you, and so many other children and servants of God support us by your prayers, and take such a kind share both in our external and internal well-being.

"We cannot sufficiently express in words our thankfulness to our gracious heavenly Father, when we take a retrospective view of the events of the year past, and call to mind the numberless favours and benefits we have received at His hands, all of which are derived from His mercy and undeserved love. We European Brethren and Sisters have been preserved from every kind of dangerous disorder. Our Saviour has granted us health and strength sufficient for every duty, and blessed our exertions with success. He has granted us the continuance of that greatest blessing, brotherly love and unanimity. Our new house is nearly finished, and we hope this autumn to be able to move into and inhabit it.

"In Autumn last year, we were not a little concerned about the outward maintenance of our large congregation here, as very few seals were caught; but God our Preserver, upon whom alone we rely, granted afterwards to the Esquimaux such a supply, that they were enabled to lay in a sufficient stock for the winter, and were not reduced to the necessity of leaving us before Easter. None of them suffered real want, though we had to help a few of the most indigent from our store. They acknowledge this with the greater gratitude, as the heathen Esquimaux to the north of our settlement sufferd exceedingly from famine, one of them having perished with hunger. The visits therefore during the winter were of rare occurrence. In their distress, however, many a one was brought to a sense of his wretched state, without the knowledge of a God, who is mighty to save, and in general a great awakening took place among the heathen, who began to ask, what they must do to be saved. Since the New Year, fifty-nine persons have come to live here, among whom are several truly desirous of being converted, and obtaining pardon and peace with God through the merits of Jesus. It is manifest that the spirit of truth has enlightened their

hearts, and directed them to Him as their only hope. A company of these poor people moved us to great compassion. Their emaciated forms exhibited a deplorable picture of the hunger they had suffered, and proved that they had been nigh unto death. O might this visitation but tend to their true conversion to the Lord, and their deliverance from the power of sin and Satan.

"The Lord has confirmed our testimony of His word, and the doctrine of His atoning death and suffering, by the manifestation of its power in the hearts of the hearers, insomuch that the fruits thereof were seen; and hearts as cold as ice, and as hard as the rocks, were melted and subdued, when we described to the Esquimaux, how He willingly submitted to the most cruel and ignominious death on the cross, for their sakes also, and now stands ready with outstretched arms, to receive and pardon every poor repenting sinner who cries for mercy and salvation. By the teaching of the Holy Spirit, they have attained to a better knowledge of their lost condition by nature, and of the exceeding sinfulness of sin and its condemning power, which causes them with earnestness to fly to the only refuge, even to Him who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. In our daily meetings at the church, on festivals, and at the administration of the Holy Sacraments, we have felt the presence of our Saviour in a heart enlivening manner. Our constant prayer is, that the blessing enjoyed on such occasions, by our dear Esquimaux, may be abiding, and the resolution then made to devote themselves entirely to Jesus, may be more and more strengthened and brought into effect. What we thus see and experience encourages us to hope, that notwithstanding all their weakness and failings our Lord will not forsake them, but perfect the good work He has begun. The enemy of God and man, however, is always upon the watch, and seeks to decoy the unwary, and bring them again under his dominion. One very melancholy event took place here during the winter. A man, who had been several years a communicant, and with his wife Lydia, led a quiet and exemplary life, being seized with an illness producing fits of insanity, in a sudden paroxysm first stabbed his wife, and immediately after hanged himself. Though the dreadful deed was the effect of a disordered mind, the sensation it produced was painful beyond description.

"Since the departure of the ship in 1822, seven adults and fourteen children received holy baptism; eight persons were admitted to the Lord's Supper, and three to the class of candidates for baptism. One was received into the congregation, being baptized as a child. The number of our inhabitants is 341. The schools were diligently kept and attended by 140 scholars, whose proficiency in reading the Holy Scriptures distinctly and with understanding, is considerable, and affords us much pleasure. A salutary impression is also made on their tender minds, by the Lord's blessing on this part of our labour. The weather has been moderate, and but little snow comparatively fell in these parts, which was an advantage to the Esquimaux. No sickness of consequence prevailed. Besides the abovementioned, only two men departed this life.

"We were much affected to hear of the death of Brother John Lefebvre, having known him as a most active, faithful, and devoted servant of the Lord in your society and congregation. He is now at rest, and in possession of an eternal reward of mercy.

"In the night of the 26th we were unexpectedly rejoiced by the arrival of the Harmony, and on the following day met to bid our worthy captain and other friends on board welcome. Brother Kohlmeister and his wife, and Brother J. Benedict Henn from Nain, came on a visit; Brother Kunath from Nain, as our future fellow-labourer, and Sister Fischer from Europe. For the merciful preservation of the ship and company we offered up praise and thanksgiving in fellowship to God our heavenly Father. To all our dear friends and benefactors we beg to present our most unfeigned cordial thanks. May He graciously reward them and you, and fill all your hearts with peace and comfort, and be your help and strength in every time of need. August 29th, was the marriage of Brother George Fred. Knaus with Sister Mary Catharine Fischer, and we commended them in fervent prayer to the blessing of God our Saviour. They are appointed to the service of the mission at Nain. Requesting an interest in your prayers both for ourselves and our dear Esquimaux congregation, we remain ever, your most affectionate Brethren and Sisters at Okkak.

(Signed) FRED. JENSEN MILLER, GEO. FRED. KNAUS."

GREENLAND.

Extracts of letters from Brother JOHN GOTTFRIED GORCKE.

"LICHTENFELS, *March* 12, 1823.

"MY DEAR BROTHER—The parcel of clothing which you sent us last year arrived safe, but very late in this remote country, as the three parcels for Newherrnhut, Lichtenfels and Lichtenau, were all put on shore at Newherrnhut by the captain of the ship bound to Godhaab. Opportunities occur but seldom to send any goods from thence to us. I was therefore not able to answer the letters contained in the parcels, when I wished, which I am the more sorry for, as the earliest and warmest acknowledgments were due to the generous benefactors in England and Scotland, who have so kindly and bountifully considered us and our dear Greenlanders. I hope that Brother Lehman at Newherrnhut has written to our dear friend the Rev. Mr. Cocker, at Bunny, and expressed our thanks to him and his friends for what he sent to us. His letter was most welcome, and afforded us much edification and encouragement. In one of the parcels you had likewise sent us two copies of the four Evangelists and the Acts of the Apostles, as part of the New Testament, printed for our Mission by the venerable British and Foreign Bible Society, which gave us very great pleasure, and filled our hearts with gratitude to that excellent Society, raised up by the Lord Himself to spread the knowledge of His word in all the earth. The revision of the press must have been a very tedious and troublesome work, as you and your friendly assistants were quite unacquainted with the lan-

guage. We beg you to accept our best thanks for this labour of love. The printing faults which have remained, are, to our astonishment, very few. We exceedingly admire the beautiful paper and type, and every one that sees it, is delighted with the execution of the work. Great will be our joy when the whole New Testament appears, and we and our Greenland congregations will feel quite unable, in any way according with our feelings, to express our gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society for such a precious present. No time can efface the sense of such obligations from our minds and memories.

"You are acquainted with those generous friends, who have supplied us with so many articles of clothing and other kind gifts, whereby many comforts have been procured us, to which we had previously been strangers. We were indeed always supplied with the necessaries of life, and sufficient attention was paid to the lists we sent in, but our dear friends in England and Scotland have considered us with such kindness, that we have become possessed of many articles, of which, though necessary, especially in families where there are children, we sometimes felt the want, through our own backwardness in requiring them. We all beg you to express, in the best manner, our unfeigned gratitude towards every one of our benefactors. They are, indeed, known to Him, whom they love and serve, and who according to His promise, will not suffer the meanest gift, given in His name, to go unrewarded.

"We have again spent a very agreeable winter with our dear Greenlanders, and our gracious heavenly Father has given them a sufficiency for their outward subsistence, for which they and we feel truly thankful.

"My wife's health is yet very precarious, but she has not been confined to her bed, and was able, though in weakness, to attend to her duties; as for me, I have enjoyed better health, and some doubtful symptoms of increasing infirmity have vanished, insomuch that I could follow my calling, and attend to every part of my duty with cheerfulness and activity. For this blessing I offer up fervant thanks to my gracious Lord and Saviour. Thus also my dear fellow labourers, Brother Grillich and his wife, and the Brethren Fleig and Albert, were favoured with good health and strength during the year past. But among our people, coughs, pectoral and other complaints have been prevalent, both in the spring, summer, and winter. Three widows departed this life; the rest recovered. Though we have in general the greatest satisfaction in observing the Christian walk and conversation of our Greenlanders, and their growth in grace at home, we sometimes feel much uneasiness respecting those of our young people of both sexes, who are obliged to attend the seal catching of the colonists in the out-places, where they are too apt to get familiar with persons, by whom they are seduced to sin. It is out of our power to prevent such connexions, partly because by that work they must earn their livelihood, and partly because we are expected by government to encourage our people to serve the merchants in every possible way, to promote the traffic of the colony. We therefore can do nothing but pray for such poor people, and remind them as often as opportunity offers, of what they have heard

of the way of salvation, warning them against the snares laid for them by the enemy, and representing to them the danger of forfeiting the privileges they are invited to enjoy, by turning a deaf ear to the voice of the Holy Spirit in their heart. Some who had deviated, have returned with contrition and true repentance unto the good Shepherd, who faithfully follows His poor straying sheep, and brings them back to the fold. Such instances of His goodness prove always a great encouragement to us.

"You have already been informed, that by permission of our gracious Sovereign, we are about to form a fourth settlement near Staatenhuk. Perhaps it may be begun next year, when Brother Kleinschmidt returns from Europe. May the Lord grant us an additional supply of faithful labourers for this new work, that we need not deprive the three settlements now existing of the needful number of missionaries, of whom not one is to spare. Some of us are old and growing infirm, and the young Brethren are not yet sufficiently conversant with the Greenland language to be employed in a new place.

"We are now approaching the blessed season, when we more particularly call to mind the sufferings and death of our Redeemer. May He again make it a time of refreshing from His presence, that our whole heart and soul may be anew filled with love and gratitude towards Him for what He has done, to save us from sin and death. Thus our faith and confidence in Him will be strengthened anew, and all our labour be rendered light.

"To the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and all our dear Brethren and Sisters and friends, we beg to present our best love and thanks, and to commend ourselves and the congregation we serve, to their kind remembrance and prayers. I remain ever, &c.

JOHN GOTTFRIED GORCKE."

From the same.

"LICHTENFELS, *July* 12, 1828.

"YOUR letter has afforded us the most heartfelt satisfaction, and nothing tends so much to enliven and encourage us as the correspondence we are through mercy enabled to maintain with such dear friends. The health both of myself and my wife has rather improved of late, for which we are very thankful to our Saviour. You observe, that after a man has reached the sixtieth spoke of the ladder of life, he begins more than ever to find that he has here no continuing city. I am already about to step upon the 64th, and perceive, that I cannot perform my duty with the same ease and activity as formerly, but I should do very wrong to complain. Rather have I reason to thank and praise my Lord and Master that He has granted me to enjoy such health and strength as I possess, enabling me to attend to all my several duties with cheerfulness. It is only when any thing requires extraordinary bodily exertion, that I feel a decline of power. I sent one of the two copies of the printed Greenland New Testament, which I received

through your kindness, to Brother Kleinschmidt, at Lichtenau; for, by the boxes being brought to New Herrnhut, great delay in forwarding them to Lichtenfels and Lichtenau was necessarily occasioned, for want of suitable opportunities. The paper is so good, that it is very easy to make any little corrections, where there are printing faults. The vessel containing our portion of that valuable present, is still prevented by contrary winds from reaching our port. I have in my former letter expressed, as well as I could, the gratitude we feel towards the British and Foreign Bible Society, for this inestimable gift to us and our Greenland congregations, and can only add, that we shall never cease to pray to the Lord to bless and reward them for it.

"We have read the account of the celebration of the jubilee of the Renovation of the Brethren's church, as celebrated at Herrnhut, with great pleasure and edification. We had here on that day, (June 17th, 1822,) three meetings, in which we called to mind, with praise and thanksgiving, the numberless mercies and favours experienced from our gracious God and Saviour during the past century, and were most fervently joined by our dear people, to whom, by means of this merciful dispensation, the Gospel has been brought for their everlasting good.

"We celebrated the Passion-week and Easter, with the blessing of the Lord, and devoted ourselves anew to Him, who has purchased us unto Himself by His most precious blood. After Easter, the Greenlanders began to go to the out-places on the coast, and not many remain in the settlement in summer. On the 5th of April, fifty-two minutes after six, P. M. we felt the shock of an earthquake, which lasted half a minute. All the inhabitants who were in their houses at the time felt it, and heard a rumbling noise, but those in the open air perceived nothing of it, and were much surprised to see the people running out of their houses, inquiring what had happened. To all our dear friends and Brethren we beg our most cordial salutations, &c. &c.

JOHN GOTTFRIED GORCKE."

From Brother MICHAEL EBERLE.

LICHTENAU, *July* 7, 1823.

AFTER making several remarks on the publication of the Greenland New Testament, expressing the joy and gratitude felt by the missionaries and their congregation at Lichtenau on that account, and regretting that the difficulties of conveyance from one settlement to another are so great, as to occasion considerable delay—he proceeds to speak of the new settlement, about to be formed near Staatenhuk, with prayers and good wishes for its success, &c. &c. and adds,

"As to our congregation, we have reason to rejoice over most of them, and are particularly encouraged by seeing so many heathen arrive among us, declaring their sincere desire to hear, believe and experience the power of the Gospel, and to become happy followers of Jesus. Many live coals brought together warm each other, and mutually preserve their heat. And how could any one remain an indifferent

spectator, if favoured to be present at the many feasts the Lord prepares for His people in this place. Such are indeed our frequent baptismal transactions, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the confirmation and solemn reception into the congregation of those, who having been baptized as children, walk in the way of the Lord, and abide with His flock; not to speak of other festivals of the church and memorial days, on all of which the presence of our Saviour fills our hearts with joy and gladness. During last winter thirty persons from among the heathen, and eight children have been baptized; thirty-eight were made partakers of the Holy Communion, and nine were received into the congregation. Seven pair were married. During the four years that I have been here, 116 persons from among the heathen have been baptized. Our congregation consisted at the close of 1822 of 571 baptized, and 114 unbaptized, under instruction; in all of 658: and we have the prospect of a still greater increase this year, as many heathen from the south have sent us word, that they mean to come hither, and to turn with their whole heart to Jesus. Is this not most encouraging to you and us?

"The weather during the winter was mild, and the quantity of snow was less than usual. As the Greenlanders could therefore go out at all times to procure provisions, they suffered no want, for which we thank our merciful Heavenly Father. We European Brethren had likewise a sufficient supply of fresh meat.

"The widow of our late venerable Father Beck, will return this year with Brother Kleinschmidt and his family to Europe. Two single Brethren have come to our assistance, but must first learn the language. I am well employed, and, added to my other labours, have to look after our cattle; for in this country we must do every thing ourselves, if it is to be well done. We have sixty-two sheep and goats. But if it pleases the Lord to preserve my health, and that of my wife, we shall continue our exertions with cheerfulness. As to our ministry, the work is the Lord's, and He will maintain it, and help us in all things to do His will. On the 5th of June, my wife was delivered of a healthy daughter, whom we called Louisa Emilia in baptism. Commending ourselves to the love and prayers of all our dear European Brethren and friends, we remain ever, your affectionate, &c. &c.

MICHAEL & JOANNA EBERLE."

WEST INDIES.

ANTIGUA.

From Brother JOHN ELLIS.

CEDARHALL, *October* 23, 1823.

"DEAR BROTHER—Since January last we have been living in that part of the Island called *The Valley*, a name, which does not convey a very just idea of it, as it consists of a number of hills, many of which have the appearance of mountains, here and there divided by well cul-

tivated vallies, or by glens adorned with rocks and copses. Here, through God's blessing, we have been able to establish a fifth settlement. Cedarhall is situated about a mile and a half from the sea, on the west side of the island, four miles from St John's, on a rising ground, beautifully studded with cedar trees. Although we have had some difficulties to encounter, yet we consider ourselves more than compensated by the grateful manner in which the negroes of this neighbourhood welcomed us on our arrival, and the many thousand thanks they have ever since repeated, and requested us to convey to our Brethren and friends in Europe, for having given them such a convenient opportunity to hear the gospel.

"Since the opening of our church on Easter Sunday, 1822, 92 adults and 70 children have been baptized; 69 baptized as children received into the congregation; 165 added to the class of candidates for baptism; and about 200 to the list of the new people. With this latter class, it is our duty to exercise much patience, many of them being so completely benighted by ignorance and superstition, that it requires much vigilance to discover any avenue to the heart, which is not barricadoed by the enemy. In order to ascertain the true state of their minds, they are admitted individually to speak with us every eight weeks, and although this is generally a very arduous task, yet as we often trace a work of the Holy Spirit in their souls, in reproving them of sin, teaching and guiding them by degrees into all truth, and bringing them to faith in Jesus, it is not only bearable but truly edifying. Our frequent attendance also on those, who are sick or expecting to depart this life, which, unconnected with the effects of the gospel would not only be considered a laborious, but a gloomy and melancholy part of our duty, becomes on the contrary a most pleasing employ.

"I think I have not had a more agreeable instance of this kind, than one which occurred a few days ago, when I was called to visit one of the assistants, who was supposed to be on the brink of eternity. This negro's mind seemed to be quite absorbed in the forethought of his departure out of this world. He recited with much emotion those two hymns, "*Mount Zion, where the Lamb of God*," &c. and "*How shall I meet my Saviour!*" &c. (See Brethren's Hymn Book.) Having spoken with him some time, and sung the abovementioned two verses, I commended him in prayer to the Shepherd and Bishop of souls, during which, though in great pain he lay quite still. After thanking me kindly for my visit, he began, of his own accord, to address the persons present, a considerable number being assembled, in nearly the following manner: 'You see how weak I am and how full of pain. I have no more any desire after this world, but I look forward to a richer inheritance. Jesus is the end and object of my faith. I know that in Him are hid all the treasures of God. Hear then what I would say to you; attend to what you hear from the word of God. Attend to your church; seek to know Jesus; seek Him early; seek Him late; at home and at church. Give your hearts to Him, He will be more to you than all your family and friends: I find this so. He is truly precious to me!' This and more to the same effect, he spoke in so earnest and impres-

sive a manner, that many were deeply affected and shed tears. It was evident throughout his illness that his conversation was in heaven, from whence he looked for his Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. Owing to a species of influenza among the negroes, as well as the white population in this island, our calls to visit the sick have been more than commonly frequent. Most have recovered, a few have been carried off by it. I suppose that not one half of the inhabitants have escaped being affected by it, in a greater or less degree. J. ELLIS."

From Brother C. F. Richter.

St. John's, *October* 24, 1823.

"Dear Brother—Since my last we have continued in our usual course, and have the pleasure to see proofs that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. On the 11th of July, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of our church at St. John's. It was a day of real blessing to our negro congregation, on which we felt our hearts filled with joy, thanksgiving and praise to our merciful God and Saviour, for having granted and preserved to us for so many years a place of worship, where we might uninterruptedly preach the gospel, and see the blessed effects produced thereby, in a manner beyond all our expectation. Though it was a week-day, and our meetings were held in the evening, yet there were many more present than the church could hold.

"During the fifty years since the consecration of the church on July 11th, 1773, there have been baptized and received into the congregation in St. John's, 16,099 negroes, young and old; and 35 Brethren and 35 Sisters have been employed in the service of the mission. Fifteen of that company have departed this life on the island.

"There is at present great eagerness shown by the negroes to be instructed in reading, and schools are established in various places, by Mr. Dawes and others. The young negroes endeavour to learn to read, some receiving instruction from white people, others from mulattoes, and others again from persons of their own colour. We soon expect Brother Procop to assist in the mission. Brother Sautter from hence will succeed him in St. Kitts. I returned last night from a visit to Gracehill, where I left our Brethren and Sisters well in health, and cheerfully active in their missionary labours.

C. F. RICHTER."

ST. KITTS.

Extract of a letter from Brother John Johansen.

"Basseterre, *April* 12, 1823.

"Dear Brother—Your last letters received by our new assistant, Brother Wright, proved a great encouragement to us, and were rendered peculiarly interesting, by the account of the celebration of the jubilee of the Brethren's church, at Herrnhut, a place I have never seen.

For all the intelligence, relating to the progress of our missions in other parts of the world, and to our congregations in Europe, we offer you our sincere thanks.

"Concerning the mission in this island, I may say with truth, that the Lord continues to bless our poor exertions. On our communion and prayer days we have manifest proof that He is present with us, and there are always some, who on those occasions advance in church privileges. From Easter 1822 to Easter 1823, 153 negroes were either baptized or admitted to the Lord's Supper at Basseterre; at Bethseda 72; in all, 225.

"The celebration of the Passion week and Easter was attended with much blessing. Our churches here and at Bethesda were every evening filled with hearers, but on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, were too small to contain the numbers that came to us, and many were obliged to stand on the outside. I spent last Sunday at Bethesda with Brother Wright. I wish my dear brethren at home could have been here, to see the people flocking to the burial ground in the morning, to attend the reading of the Litany. Though there were many hundreds present, perfect silence and attention prevailed. In the forenoon so great a number attended the public service, that the spacious church was too small to contain the hearers, among whom were many white people. Such days are always most encouraging to us, and excite us to pray that the word of the Cross may more and more prove itself the power of God for the conversion of all who hear it, that our Saviour may see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

"We are thankful that we have hitherto been preserved from hurricanes, such as have occurred in North America and the Cape of Good Hope. Since the beginning of this year, the weather has been unusually hot and dry.

"The departure of our dear and valuable Brother Kaltofen was a very painful occurrence to us all. I was appointed to supply his place at Bethesda till a successor could be sent from Antigua or Europe. From the former island we were soon informed that no missionary could be spared, and after long waiting, were the more rejoiced by the arrival of Brother Wright, especially as my health suffered so much, that in the beginning of the year I was obliged to call in the doctor. The Lord blessed the means used for my recovery, and I hope that both myself and my wife, (who has likewise had her share of illness, but is better,) may be spared and favoured to be longer active in His service. In the Danish Islands, a great loss has been sustained by the departure of a valuable young missionary, Brother Peterson, in his 33d year. Brother Matthew Wied is now the oldest missionary of our church in the West Indies, and is still lively and active. We beg all our dear Brethren and friends to remember us in prayer at the throne of grace, and commend ourselves to their love and kind participation.

J. JOHANSEN."

From Brother JOHN TAYLOR.

"NEWFIELD, *July* 5, 1828.

"DEAR BROTHER—Your affectionate and encouraging letters of the 4th of February and 22d of March, have afforded me great pleasure; the letter was brought by our friend Mrs. Allen with whom we sincerely sympathize, on account of the loss of her husband, who died suddenly on the 6th of March. He had approved himself a sincere friend of the Mission in Antigua, and promoted the instruction of the negroes on Mr. G's estates. That I have not written sooner, was owing to a severe illness, which befel me in October last year, and confined me to my bed. I was assisted by the missionaries in St. John's and Gracehill, having been obliged to submit to a surgical operation, and suffered great pain. During this severe trial, however, our Saviour supported me, and enabled me to derive comfort from meditating on the pains and agony He endured for my sins, in Gethsemane and on the cross, by which I was rendered patient and resigned to His holy will. I am now much better and can ride out in the whisky, (a name given to a vehicle something like an Irish jaunting-car.) My health is otherwise good, and my wife and children are, thank God, all well.

"We are comfortably situated here, and are happy in this place. Our church continues to be well attended, though there are now several places near us, where the gospel is preached. The Rev. Mr. L. a minister of the Church of England, has arrived from England as a missionary to the negroes on Mr. G's estate. Both these gentlemen keep up a friendly connexion with us. Those of their negroes, who formerly belonged to our congregation, are permitted to attend here, and our mutual visits are very agreeable. We pray, that the Lord may lay His blessing upon the labours of these benevolent men. We have every encouragement given us by the proprietor. Lately the Hon. S. Athill, President of the Council, the Hon. N. Nugent, Speaker of the House of Assembly, and a company of ladies and gentlemen signified their intention of attending the service in our church on Sunday They expressed themselves pleased with the neatness of the place, and showed me every kindness. Mr. T. a proprietor, made particular inquiries about our Missions in general, and added, that he observed great improvement in the morals and conduct of the negroes, since his last visit to Antigua, twenty years ago.

"At the beginning of this year this congregation consisted of 1119 persons, of whom 376 are communicants, 285 adults, and 140 children baptized. Eleven persons departed this life, among whom were our oldest assistant, Joseph, and David, a communicant. Both of them lived as becometh the gospel, and in communion with the Lord. We were always edified by their sincere and grateful expressions of love and confidence towards their Saviour, who had done so much for them. When I visited Joseph a few days before his departure, he said: 'I long to go home to heaven to meet my Saviour, and to see Him face to face. I know assuredly that He shed His blood and died for *me* also, and I shall soon be at home in His presence.' David, on a similar oc-

casion said: 'My greatest trouble is, that I can no more come to church, and partake of the Holy Communion, but I shall soon go and be with the Lord for ever.' On the night before his dissolution, he called his wife and seven children, some of whom also have children, and imparted to them his farewell benediction, charging them to follow our Saviour, and to live in peace among themselves. The funerals of both these negroes were numerously attended, as a proof of how much they were respected by the negroes. As long as they were able, they seldom missed coming to church, and they frequently expressed their thanks to God, 'for having brought the church to them, as they were no longer able to walk as far as Gracehill.'

"We thank the Lord for having graciously regarded the sufferings of our Missionaries and their Hottentot flock at the Cape; for the blessing He has lately laid upon the Mission among the Calmucks; and for the extended circulation of the Holy Scriptures. I have a Sunday School of about forty children, who attend diligently. About twelve can already read the New Testament pretty well. All our Missionaries in Antigua are well at present, though Brother Newby now and then has to complain of illness. Commending this branch of our Mission in this Island to the remembrance and prayers of all our Brethren and friends, I remain ever, &c.

JOHN TAYLOR."

Newfield, Antigua, July 5, 1823.

JAMAICA.

Extract of a letter from Brother Lewis Stobwasser, *sent in June* 1823, *on a visit to the Mission of the Brethren in Jamaica.*

"Nottingham, Mayday-Hills, *July* 26, 1823.

"My Dear Brother—Our gracious Lord was pleased to grant us a very pleasant passage to this island. We left the Downs on the 6th of June. The wind being contrary, we were nearly a week beating down the British Channel, but on the 12th cleared the Lizard Point and proceeded with favourable wind and weather. A clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Mr. Cook, of Clarendon in Jamaica, being a passenger, we had almost every Sunday public service on board, except when the rolling of the ship made it impracticable. On the 19th we passed Madeira, and on the 7th of July in the morning, the Island of Antigua, an island in many respects so dear to us, as the place where we had laboured for some years. We were so close to it that we could distinguish the buildings, many of which were well known to us. How glad should we have been to have landed and visited our old friends, and our negro congregations. We had just fixed our eyes upon our settlement at Gracebay, when a squall came on and hid the island from our view. We were now rapidly carried towards Montserrat and Rodonda, the latter a barren rock, inhabited only by innumerable birds. For fear of the pirates we kept much to the southward, so that, except-

ing the islands of Nevis and St. Kitts, we did not see any land till the 13th, when the east end of Jamaica and the towering Blue Mountains, presented themselves before us. A black pilot soon came on board to bring us in. Jamaica appeared to me one of the most beautiful countries I have ever seen. Near the shore, from the effects of the late rains, the verdure was delightful; fields, cane-pieces, cocoa plantations, and pleasant copses, with buildings of various kinds, formed a charming fore-ground, bounded by woody hills, and in the back-ground the lofty chain of the Blue Mountains, here and there covered with clouds. About noon we reached Port Royal, at the entrance of the vast basin which forms the harbour of Kingston, were we arrived two hours after. Here we were all strangers. But Mr. Gibson, to whom I brought a letter of recommendation, showed us every possible kindness. From hence I went to Spanish Town to deliver my passport to the Governor. The scenery throughout the whole journey delighted me. I was particularly struck with the singing of blackbirds which I had never heard in Antigua. At Spanish Town there is a handsome iron bridge over the Rio Cobra. Here we heard our fellow passenger preach his first sermon, which was well attended. My prayers for him were that the Lord might make him a faithful and successful labourer in His vineyard. On the 16th we reached the Black River, where again we experienced much kindness from Mr. James Daly, and on the 19th arrived at Carmel with the Brethren and Sisters Hoch and Berger. I immediately entered upon my commission, and was glad to find the arrangements respecting Carmel and Fairfield in a desirable state of forwardness.

"Fairfield is in an eligible situation for a Missionary station. The elevation of it renders it cool and healthy, and the climate appears almost European. The house is convenient, but at present in a very dilapidated state, wanting considerable repairs. Its situation is pretty central for the negroes, retired, and particularly liked by them, which is a main qualification for a settlement. It does not communicate with Black River but by a round-about way. Alligator pond, is the harbour of the parish of Manchester, in which Fairfield, Nottingham, and Spice-grove are situated, and by that harbour the Missionaries stationed at Fairfield must receive their supplies.

"I feel thankful, that the Brethren here have managed matters so well, and it will take some time before I become sufficiently acquainted with all the particular objects recommended to my attention. Amidst all feeling of insufficiency I have no trust but in my gracious God and Saviour, who hears my prayers, and will, I firmly believe, assist me to do what is committed to me, in His strength, and with a sincere view to be used only as an instrument in His hand. Pray for me, that I may not be an unprofitable servant, but accepted of Him, whose name I desire to glorify. Nottingham, where we are at present with our dear Brother Hoch and his wife, lies in a cool and healthy station in the Mayday hills.

"Last Sunday I had the favour to address a numerous negro congregation at Spice-Grove, on John iv. 13, 14. May the stream from the rivers of the waters of life also make glad this part of the city of

our God! The character of the negroes here is peculiarly simple and and childlike. They are very desirous that we should soon come and settle among them. At Nottingham we are quite in their neighbourhood, whereas to Carmel many of them had to travel from 15 to 20 miles. Before, however, we settle here, we cannot introduce any of the regulations usual in our Missionary stations. Our good and valuable friend Mr. P. has most kindly exerted himself in our behalf. The desire of the negroes after the word of God is great, and I pray that we may be soon enabled to have a resident Missionary at Fairfield, and that the Lord may dispose our friends in Europe to assist us to build a church, where the dear people may meet and be fed with the bread of life. If we think it a Christian duty incumbent upon us to feed the hungry, how much more ought we to strive to bring unto our fellow men that meat which doth not perish. And here we have a most desirable opportunity, which I trust we shall all improve. I commend the Mission in Jamaica, and particularly this part of it, to the generous attention, remembrance, and prayers of all our Brethren and friends; and am ever,

LEWIS STOBWASSER."

From Brother JOHN BECKER.

"NEW EDEN, ST. ELIZABETH'S, *May* 20, 1823.

"DEAR BROTHER—I may say with truth, that the Lord has done wonders in this Mission. When I came to this place twelve years ago, I found very few, who knew any thing more than that they had been formerly baptized by a Missionary. Not long after I perceived that by the power of His word, preached in simplicity, the Lord caused convictions to arise in the minds of the negroes, and their blind eyes to be opened. Many came to inquire, what they must do to be saved. At present this is still more frequently done. Our new church is too small to hold the congregation. About 500 may find room in it, and our auditory is generally 900. During the Christmas holidays not half of those who attended could enter the church. The Passion-week also was a season of great blessing. On Good Friday evening, when the history of our Lord's death and burial was read, the whole congregation seemed moved, and numberless tears were shed. To me it was a very affecting sight. Never could I have expected to see such proofs of the power of the Gospel among the ignorant and depraved population of this large island. On Easter Sunday our place was filled with all descriptions of people. Our negroes, who sometimes do not see each other for months, being employed in the cane-pieces and woods, meet again with such delight, shaking hands and wishing each other God's blessing, that it is a real pleasure to see what Christianity has effected among them. April 27th, being our Prayer-day, twelve persons were baptized, and twenty-two added to the candidates for baptism. From Easter 1822 to Easter 1823, 99 adults have been baptized or received into the congregation, and 52 have become partakers of the Lord's

Supper. These are indeed encouraging proofs of the progress of the work of the Lord and His Spirit; but it may be supposed that we also perceive that the enemy is not inactive, but seeks by various means to destroy the work of God. In a few instances a spirit of persecution manifests itself against those who attend our church, but we trust that the Lord will cause His work to flourish and prosper, and increase the desire of the negroes to hear His word and to experience deliverance from the power of sin, by resorting to Him for safety and protection, and that they may walk worthy of the Gospel, be faithful and obedient in their respective stations, and in all circumstances approve themselves the children of God. We commend the Mission to the prayers of all our Brethren and friends.

JOHN BECKER."

ST. CROIX.

From Brother MATTHEW WIED.

"FRIEDENSBERG, *August*, 1823.

"OUR friend, Major Moody, who has paid us a very agreeable visit, and takes a kind share in the success of our Missions in the West Indies, is going home to England by way of North America. As he has offered to convey a letter to you, I seize this opportunity with pleasure, to send you some account of our mission in the Danish Islands. After the departure of my dear wife in May 1821, I requested my dismissal, wishing to spend my latter days at rest in one of our European settlements. This was readily granted, but circumstances have hitherto prevented my return. If I live to next 13th of November I shall be eighty years old, and have been forty-one years engaged in the service of this Mission, without ever visiting Europe or America. I feel that I am an old man, and losing my faculties of sight and hearing, together with my memory. I cannot, however, be sufficiently thankful to my gracious Lord and Master, that He has spared me so long in His service, and still supports me. I am therefore very well satisfied to remain, and to take what He sends. He will do things well, and suit His help to my need, that amidst all my weakness and insufficiency I may yet serve Him in this place. He is the good Shepherd, and His sheep shall never want any good thing. Brother Lehman, who returned to Europe in May last, after long service in this Mission, is succeeded by Brother Sybrecht from Friedensfeld, and Brother Boenhoff from hence succeeds the latter. My assistant is Brother Jungman. As to the progress of the Mission in this island, though we cannot speak of any great awakening among the negroes, yet we may declare, to the praise of God, that He carries on His work in our congregations, and also leads many from among the heathen to us, who earnestly inquire, what they must do to be saved. To such we gladly preach the gospel, directing sinners to Jesus, with whom they find acceptance and deliverance from sin and the power of Satan. Some indeed give us pain by straying from the good Shepherd, and again falling into evil ways, espe-

cially in distant plantations, where they meet with too much to seduce them. Whoever doth not persevere in watchfulness and prayer, seeking help and protection from our Almighty Saviour, may easily be led into indifference and danger.

"I rejoice that I have lived to see the time, when the dawn of the glorious kingdom of God our Saviour begins to appear in so many parts of the world, by the distribution of the word of God among the nations of the earth; and when so many excellent institutions have been established, and associations formed, to make known the pure gospel of Jesus, to oppose the spirit of Antichrist, being grounded upon the only true foundation, the doctrine of the atonement made by Jesus, when He gave Himself a sacrifice for us. I rejoice, that Christians no longer suffer themselves to be so much divided on account of opinions, and by disputes about words and forms, but more and more seek to maintain that spirit of union and brotherly love which our Lord, in that important prayer before His sufferings, desired might be the character of all His people, but against which the enemy of God and man has always opposed every possible means, both by the depravity of human reason, and the envy and jealousy reigning in the hearts of the unregenerate. My daily prayer is: 'Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven!' And I believe that I am joined by many thousands in all parts of the world. Forgive this long digression.

"We have great reason to be thankful, that after long drought it has pleased our heavenly Father to grant us a fruitful rain, that we may hope for a good sugar harvest. In other respects there is here great scarcity of money, poverty, and want of trade. I commend this Mission to the prayers of all our dear friends in England, to whom all my fellow labourers beg to present their most cordial salutation.

MATTHEW WIED."

SOUTH AFRICA.

Extract of a letter from Brother JOHN HENRY SCHMITT.

"ENON, *June* 27, 1823.

"DEAR BROTHER—We have received your letters with great pleasure. The last, dated February 9th, reached us about a fortnight ago. The salutations and good wishes, expressed in them, were communicated to the congregation soon after, in a public meeting, and made a deep impression upon many. They came in the following days to request us to send their best thanks to you and the Society, for the kind share taken in their welfare, and added many very encouraging declarations of their gratitude, for the love and kindness of the Brethren in Europe, in sending teachers to instruct them in the way of Salvation.

"We join them, dear Brother, in most cordial thanks to your Society, and to all our Brethren and friends in England, who have so liberally contributed towards the relief of this Mission, under its late sufferings. Many an eternal reward be their portion.

"We have great cause to bless and praise the Lord, for the manifest tokens we see of the work carried on by His Holy Spirit, in the hearts of most of our people. May it continue and prosper, that they may be yet more firmly grounded upon Him, and understand more clearly the precious doctrine of His Cross and Atonement, being delivered by the power of His grace from all dominion of sin and Satan, and under His protection saved in all the assaults of the enemy of souls. We have fifty communicants, and five are about to be confirmed, in about three weeks. It is our greatest delight to speak with the communicants previous to the communion. Their trust in God, childlike confidence in His help, and love to Him as their Saviour, is to us most pleasing and encouraging. Truly it appears next to a miracle, when we consider how we have been supported during these last four years: what poverty and want the inhabitants have had to endure, and still endure, and that without murmuring. Their sufferings for want of proper food were indeed such, that they had not strength to build better houses; but if it pleases God, to cause the mildew by which the failure of the crops has been occasioned, to cease, and to grant again a good harvest, I trust we shall be relieved, and the Hottentots will be able to work at their dwellings, especially as by the generosity of our dear friends in Great Britain, Germany, and Holland, we have been enabled to give to every Hottentot twenty dollars towards it. Nor could we get on with the building of the cottages intended for the widows of the men murdered by the Caffres in 1819, for which you had sent the means, but we hope now to set about finishing them. One great advantage has been obtained by the building of the mill, by which, when the river is full, we may now grind our own corn, and lead the water both to our own premises and into the gardens and grounds of the Hottentots for irrigation. I cannot express sufficiently, how great the benefit is, which we now enjoy in being able to grind our own wheat and barley; for the mill we were obliged formerly to employ, lies twenty hours' walk from hence. You know I do not like to beg, but you have encouraged me, by an offer in one of your last letters, to procure some kind of an hydraulic machine, to raise the water from the bed of the river, so as to make it flow through our grounds, therefore I now come with a petition, that you would assist us. After finishing the mill and pump, and the wooden water-pipes to lead the water, I waited till the river was full enough to set the wheel a-going, and to see how all would answer, before I could reply to your kind proposal. Now that we have made the experiment, we find that the pipes, which have been only one year in the ground, rot so fast, that we lose half the water supplied by the pump. In England you have those pipes of iron, and I now venture to beg for poor Enon, that you would send us iron pipes. I am sure you are willing, and hope that you will be assisted by the generous aid of our other friends. I shall add an account of the length and bore of the pipes wanted.

"I have obtained great help, by the willing assistance given by Brother Halter. To him I have now committed all the care of the carpenter's and joiner's work. He makes excellent wagons, and has a

great deal of custom from all the neighbourhood. As Brother Hoffman is called to Groenekloof, I have undertaken the inspection of the buildings and corn lands. Thank God I have been enabled to give to the Hottentots, who have indeed distinguished themselves by their diligence, seed corn for their fields, and thus about a week ago, above five sacks of corn were sown on Strubel's place. Some of the fields look very promising. May the Lord grant His blessing, that we may also reap.

"*July 7th.* According to a letter from our friend Mr. Hart of Somerset, Mr. Brownly, missionary to the Caffres, labours among them with some prospect of success. Mr. Hart had visited, and spent two or three days with him. A few Caffres, and more of the Gonas tribe, had expressed a wish to be converted. May the Lord grant that these poor people, who sit as yet in darkness, and in the valley of the shadow of death, may soon come to the light, and the brightness of His rising. The Caffres continue to commit depredations, and but for the patroles along the frontier, the thieves would be more numerous.

"We are frequently visited by those soldiers quartered at Grahamstadt, who belong to our settlements, and we are pleased to hear, that the Christian Hottentots keep together, and consider themselves as members of this congregation. As there is no chaplain appointed at present to the regiment, their children are baptized here. Those who, at Gnadenthal and Groenekloof, belonged to the class of communicants, are admitted to the communion here, if their walk and conversation is known to be correct. Thus by the present recruiting for the army, our number has been increased, and it would be well, if those of our people, who are in service at Grahamstadt, could be sometimes visited by a missionary from hence.

"Our congregation is gradually increasing, and we count at present 250 inhabitants. It is probable, that Enon will receive a further addition of inhabitants from among the heathen, who, being driven from their land by famine, have arrived in the Nieuwe feld, near Craddock, no one knowing from what country they came. The Landdrost of that district sent them back, but the Governor wished them to be treated with kindness, and an asylum found for them in our settlement. Most of them are said to be females with their children. It is certainly very desirable, that these poor fugitives, who show confidence in the Christians, might be received, and an opportunity afforded them to become acquainted with their Creator and Redeemer. In general, such miserable creatures are considered by many of the colonists as little better than brute beasts.

"One may well feel attachment to such a place as Enon and its inhabitants. The place was but four years ago a wilderness, terrible in appearance, and the resort of elephants and tigers. At first the yellow-wood trees afforded us the only relief, when after our labour we sat down in their shade to rest. Now, where formerly nothing but wild thorn-trees (*mimosa*) covered the land, vines are growing, and already yielding their fruit. In 1819, we were obliged to fly with our whole congregation, and had to expect the same fate as the nine men, who

were murdered by the savage Caffres. Whenever I speak of these events to the first inhabitants, their lips overflow with thanksgiving to our Almighty Preserver for His mercies, and they covenant anew to live only unto Him.

"*July 23d.* Yesterday, I received your letter of the 14th of March. It proved a great refreshment to me. Ever since the 7th I have been very unwell. Pains in the stomach have left me little rest day or night. This illness attacks me now more frequently than ever, weakens me much, and interrupts me in the work I am engaged in. What a blessing is health! In my youth I enjoyed it, but alas, too often forgot to give thanks to God for it.

"By a letter from our friend Mr. Hanke, I learn that great alarm prevailed at the Cape on account of the incursion of a large body of people into the colony, from the side of Latakun. These accounts must have been sent by Mr. Melville and the missionaries. We have as yet heard nothing of such an event, but believe, that the people in the interior have suffered greatly by famine, and perhaps have on that account emigrated in search of food.

"Our people here suffer at present even more than last year. This was to be expected, but hitherto the Lord has mercifully supported us, and granted us by the generosity of our friends and benefactors in England, Scotland, and on the continent, means to afford assistance to the poor people. I bought barley and distributed it to them without pay. For wheat I gave from 18 to 23 rix-dollars the sack, and hope, that we shall have a sufficient supply till the harvest. May the Lord bless all our Brethren and friends, who so kindly assist us. All my fellow-labourers salute you. As for me, I feel no longer able to do what I wish; my illness returns upon me too often. Commending ourselves and this Mission to the remembrance and prayers of all our Brethren, we remain, &c.

(Signed) J. H. SCHMITT."

Extract of a letter from Sister A. SCHMITT.

"ENON, *August* 3, 1823.

"DEAR BROTHER—I am sorry that so many things have conspired to prevent my writing to you sooner, in answer to several letters received from you, the last of which, of February 9th, arrived here on the 17th of June. I do not know, what we should have done to assist our poor in these years of scarcity and drought, had it not been for the activity and benevolence of our English friends, in sending us help. During this last half-year there has been greater want among our Hottentots than ever before, as there were no *boorbohnen*, (a species of edible bean growing in the woods,) but thanks be to God our Saviour, for disposing the hearts of our generous friends in England and Scotland to help us, so that we were able to keep them from perishing, by giving them sometimes food, and a few articles of clothing. Every now and then my husband gives me money out of the poor's box, with

leave to bestow it where most needed, of which I keep an account. This is to me a most pleasant employment. I make it a rule to visit in the family houses once a-day, unless something particular prevents me, and have frequently very agreeable and edifying conversations with our people. We are anxious to show, that we never encourage idleness, and I can assert with truth, that the Hottentots at Enon are much more industrious than those in the Bovenland, (or country nearer the Cape.) This is particularly the case with the women. Many of them, when they have no other work, burn charcoal, or peel off bark from the thorn-bushes. They get twenty rix-dollars for a wagon load of bark at Uitenhage. To others of them I give plain work to do in their own houses, and I beg you to give my best thanks to those generous ladies, who have sent me money for the benefit of my sewing school at Enon. Indeed I have no words proper to express my gratitude, for I plainly perceive, that the Lord is graciously pleased to help me, even in this small way, to be of some use to the Hottentot children. Just when I received your letter, I was on the point of losing my courage; for my little fund was exhausted, and I had taken up two very poor children, who could earn but little, insomuch that I was obliged nearly wholly to support them. The presents I have received from Miss ——— have been peculiarly useful, and till the parcel of muslin you have announced arrives, I am helped forward by one means or another.

"*April 6th.* We received a parcel of clothing sent us from England, chiefly new. Part of the same we immediately distributed to the most needy, but retained the greater part in reserve, to be given to the children at a future period. We request you to give our most cordial thanks to the generous friends, who have contributed towards this valuable store.

"I believe my husband has given you every information how we are going on here at Enon, both in temporal and spiritual concerns. I am however sorry to say, that during the writing of his letters he felt himself growing very weak, and has been ill ever since, with a complaint in his stomach. It is the first time he has been so severely attacked in the winter season, and it makes me very uneasy. His great diligence and fatigue in building the mill and setting the pump a-going, has no doubt had a share in injuring his health, for at first it appeared as if it would not answer. Brother Halter is very active, and renders him great assistance, and indeed all the brethren are eager to help him, but you know him well, and that he will not give up, though he feels ever so weak. Thank God his work has at length succeeded beyond expectation. The mill for grinding corn, and the pumps, are worked by the same wheel. A considerable stream of water is now brought up into the grounds, and when the pump is worked alone, it runs much stronger. But the wooden pipes are found not to answer well. They soon decay, and then we lose much water, which would not be the case, were they of iron. We might then bring water upon the whole of our premises.

"It was curious to see the surprise and delight of the Hottentots, when the mill was first set to work. Though we had frequently ex-

plained it to them, that when the wheel began to go round, the water would rise in the pipes, still they could not comprehend how water could run so far under ground and then raise perpendicularly. I happened to be alone in the mill, when one of the widows (whose husband was murdered by the Caffres) came in. We did not perceive each other, till I heard a voice behind me, repeatedly uttering words to this effect: "O Lord, forgive my unbelief, forgive my murmuring, how often have I thought that impossible, which my eyes now see." I turned about and cannot describe how the scene affected me, when I saw the good old woman, with uplifted hands, and tears in her eyes, thanking God for His mercy and patience with her, though she could doubt His power. It struck me the more, as I had often had the same thought respecting our work, which she now uttered aloud. The Lord has indeed done great things for us in externals, but particularly as it respects the growth of our congregation in His knowledge and grace, as a fruit of the teaching of His Holy Spirit. At the celebration of the Lord's Supper, our little chapel is full. The communicants sit in two semicircular rows. There are more women than men. It is indeed delightful to see them, and the reflection on what our Saviour has done for them is truly comfortable and encouraging. O that He would grant health to my husband, that he may yet serve Him longer at Enon.

"The Caffres seem quiet, at least in those parts nearest to us, but how it will turn out with a nation that threatens an attack near Griqua town God only knows. If they should make party with the Caffres, we might have something to fear, but as yet reports are very vague about them. One of the missionaries, Mr. Moffat, has written to Capetown, that they are a numerous and barbarous nation. May the Lord protect our friend Mr. Melville, and his wife and children.

"The water in the White Revier begins now to flow much stronger, so that we have hopes, that it may hold on during the whole summer. We have had refreshing rains, and the corn, which stands to the right and left of the mill, looks well.

"Colonel and Mrs. Cuyler are well, and remain good friends to us, for which we are thankful. The Brethren and Sisters here are all well, and beg to be kindly remembered to you and all friends. Think of and pray for us in this distant land. I remain, &c.

A. SCHMITT."

Extracts of letters from Brother HANS PETER HALLBECK.

"GNADENTHAL, *June* 7, 1823.

"DEAR BROTHER—Two of your letters are now before me, of December 18th and January 12th, for which I owe you my best thanks. Had I had it in my power immediately to obey the dictates of my heart, not a moment should have been lost in answering letters so kind and encouraging, which, by the account they contain of the participation felt in the inward and outward prosperity of our Hottentot congregations, filled my heart with such overflowing feelings of delight and hap-

piness, as have not fallen to my lot for a long time. I felt it indeed as a want, to give vent to these emotions of gratitude, but a great variety of business intervened, and prevented it. I have however now got so far, that I can again turn my attention to those letters, and beg you in my own name, and that of all my fellow-labourers, and of all the Hottentots in our Settlements, to return our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to our dear friends and benefactors, who have so kindly contributed to our relief, and particularly to those generous friends, who have exerted themselves so much to make known our distress, and awaken the sympathy of their fellow-christians. May the God of all mercies abundantly bless each and all of them. This is indeed our earnest prayer, and that of all our Hottentots.

"You are naturally desirous to learn, in what way we are going to dispose of the noble gifts collected for us in Great Britain, Holland, and Germany. Our intention is to create a sort of fund for the encouragement of industry among our people, and for their relief in extraordinary cases, especially in a time of famine; the special mode of applying this fund to be left to the missionaries on each station. Here at Gnadenthal the following plan has been adopted for present relief:

"1. Twenty-five bullocks have been purchased, in order to assist, in the ploughing season, those who have lost their cattle, and are therefore unable to help themselves.

"2. In addition to wheat for seed, which was granted by Government last year, we have bought more, that every one, who will sow, may be supplied with seed, on condition of returning the same quantity after the harvest, and thus a permanent supply of wheat for seed is secured, which is an incalculable advantage to the Hottentots.

"3. A premium of twenty or thirty rix-dollars will be given to every Hottentot, who builds a walled cottage, according to the direction of the missionary appointed to superintend the buildings, within a year after date. Besides this help, we have now about two hundred stems of timber, to be given to those, who are first in want of them for building.

"4. Some portion of the money will be expended in the completion of the bridge over the Sonderend. It is nearly finished. We have now only to make a regular wagon road through the sandy plain, between the bridge and our place. It excites us to great thankfulness to God, that we have advanced so far with this needful work, the foundation-stone of the first pier having been laid five years ago. You would be delighted to see the bridge. Nothing of the kind exists in the whole colony."

"*May 25th.*

"We assembled the *Opsieners* (overseers,) and made known to them the help we had received from Europe, and our resolutions respecting its application. The sensation this information created is not to be described. I have forgotten to mention, that we also resolved to have their ploughshares repaired, which is of most essential benefit to them, since it often happens that they plough their land badly, and have a poor return, merely for want of good ploughshares. I cannot describe

how I felt when I was enabled to communicate such grateful intelligence, and all my brethren shared in these feelings. Joy and gratitude beamed in the countenances of all present, and it was remarkable, that the Hottentots, who, as you know, are on common occasions very forward and eloquent in returning thanks, had at the moment no power to speak. Only one of them faintly uttered a few words; all the others appeared so much surprised and overpowered with feelings of gratitude, that they were unable to give utterance to their sensations. In one of your late letters you say, 'I trust you will soon see better days:' and now your words are fulfilled. That spirit of despondency, which accumulated distress had caused to creep in among us, is giving way, and a spirit of cheerful activity is gone forth, which is already visible in our streets, gardens, and fields. May God give His blessing to our exertions.

"Among other avocations, which filled up my time and prevented me from writing sooner, was this, that a recruiting officer came hither to raise recruits for the Hottentot regiment. Not only his presence, but the various concerns of the recruits before their departure, occupied me day by day. To this was added a correspondence with the Colonial-office, on business relating to the savages, as they are called, from the interior. This will strike you as an affair of considerable importance. The Governor, from motives of pure humanity, wished that these poor people might be received into our Settlements, and come under Christian instruction. The plans formed, in answer to his Excellency's proposals, were quite satisfactory to him, but we hear that the poor people have been again driven out of the colony. It was gratifying to us, by the said proposals, to perceive that the Christian Hottentots were considered worthy of the trust of caring for these poor creatures, in preference to Europeans.

"You will see by the reports sent, that Brother Leitner and his wife at Hemel en Aarde, enjoy the confidence of Government, and we are glad, that the plan proposed with respect to the provisioning of the Leper-Institution, gives satisfaction in every quarter. Brother Leitner is now occupied in erecting a place of worship for the lepers, by desire of the Governor. It is 40 feet by 20. Two adults have been baptized at that place. Here several aged Hottentots have lately departed this life with joy, and in a very happy state of mind. The Lord is with us, and blesses us beyond all our deserts. All the Missionaries are well, and we commend ourselves to the continuance of the prayers and kind attention of all our dear Brethren and friends, in all places."

"*July* 16*th*, 1823.

"I am now sitting down to answer your most welcome letters, of February 9th and March 12th, which came to hand on the 10th of June and 15th July, and to give you some account of our present situation.

"Your first letter contained chiefly a cheering account of what has been done in England, for the relief of our poor distressed Hottentots. With what feelings I read such news, after the great perplexity of last year, I am not able to describe. A simile used by one of our Hotten-

tots, on a similar occasion, contains the best description of what I felt. 'My heart,' said he, 'was, as it were, closely tied up in a net, that I was almost in a suffocating state; but all at once, the strings of the net broke, and I could breathe freely.' May the God of all mercies abundantly bless all those, who have by their kind benevolence, thus given ease to our distressed minds, and not only afforded relief to hundreds of suffering poor, but removed a mighty bar to the prosperity of this Mission, by enabling us to escape, or at least diminish some of the fatal consequences of last year's misfortunes! It has been, and still is, our study to endeavour to render the aid afforded us, as effectual as possible, and to prevent every abuse of the noble gift. I am confident that the plan which we have adopted, and which I explained in my letter of June 7th, will be approved by our kind benefactors, since it does not only afford immediate help and strong encouragement to every one to exert himself, but is also likely to act beneficially in years to come. Hitherto our attention has been chiefly directed to the encouragement of agriculture, and about 50 muids, or 150 bushels of wheat, have been distributed to the Hottentots for seed, and already committed to the ground. They are still busy ploughing, and will not leave off before the beginning of August, and as soon as they have done with the plough, many of them will commence building walled houses, in order to have their share in the premium which has been promised. Oh! how different is our present situation to that of last year. It would indeed have been thought rank enthusiasm, if any one, a twelvemonth ago, should have ventured to predict that so soon after those great calamities, we should finish our bridge, and be enabled more than ever to push the Hottentots forward to useful exertions, and enable them not only to repair past losses, but, by the mercy of God, to adopt measures, whereby similar calamities will be rendered less fatal in future. To me, it appears like a dream, when I reflect on the occurrences of last and this year; and what I have gone through, has strengthened my confidence in the Lord, and I trust it has been of some use to me for futurity, if it should please Him to prolong my days. I believe it has had the same effect with most of our Hottentots, and besides materially contributed to awaken, and call into activity that happy spirit of mutual brotherly love, which was nearly extinct by the intensity of suffering last year. Of this I have had many agreeable instances of late.

"Several circumstances, relative to the management of the Leper-Institution, called me to Capetown, in the beginning of this month from whence I returned by way of Groenekloof, the day before yesterday.

"At the Colonial-office, I was informed that the inland natives, about whom a correspondence between Government and us had taken place, had again left the colony, in consequence of the premature measures of the Landdrost of Graaf-Reinet, and soon after I was told by a Missionary, Mr. Thomson, who came on purpose from Lattakun, that the whole nation. to whom they belonged, called Montetis, (or Mantatees,) living S. E. from Lattakun, marched upon the latter place, destroying every thing before them, whence the inhabitants of Lattakun had fled to the mountains. The Montetis are described to be of a yellow com-

plexion, with straight black hair, and are consequently quite different from Caffres and Bosjesmen. Our friend Mr. Melville, with his family, is therefore in great danger, and we look forward with extreme anxiety for more news from that quarter. The Montetis are said to be very numerous, but probably the report is not without some little exaggeration. The church at Groenekloof is quite finished, and every precaution used. At present the Hottentots there are very busy ploughing, but as soon as they have done with that most necessary work, every exertion will be made to repair the losses sustained by them, in their gardens and houses. With regard to the buildings, the same plan has been adopted there as at Gnadenthal, by which the sufferers will have their losses made up, and at the same time, be encouraged to build such houses as will be more likely to stand the wet, than the wretched Hartebeest-houses. During my absence, six adults were baptized here, and a few new people admitted as candidates for baptism. Next Sunday, six persons will be present as spectators at the Holy Communion. This forenoon we have spoken with all the communicants, with great pleasure and edification. It is really astonishing with what freedom and warmth many of the old people speak of their spiritual experience.

"The Brethren and Sisters at Groenekloof, viz. Clemens, Hoffman, Schulz, and Tietze, were well, when I left them on Saturday last, the 12th. Brother Tietze is an excellent farmer, and has sown with his own hand 53 muids of grain. Brother and Sister Hoffman exert themselves to the best of their power in the gardens, which are in much better order than when you saw them. After all, an Englishman is wanted at Groenekloof, on account of the language. Here at Gnadenthal all are well; and none has more reason than myself to be thankful for that continuance of good health, with which I and my family are blessed. I have not heard from Enon since I wrote last, and fear that Brother Schmitt is ailing. Having now planted on all suitable spots in our neighbourhood, we have lately made a trial with planting 500 oaks, on the hill above the silver-trees, where you will remember a plain, apparently fertile. With best love to the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and commending ourselves to your prayers, I remain ever, &c. &c. H. P. HALLBECK."

"*July 20th*, 1823.

"It is now nearly a year, since, under the pressure of great distress and famine, I endeavoured to give you an idea of the difficulties in which we were enveloped, and mentioned the measures we had adopted to save our suffering poor from starvation. The consequence of these sufferings are still felt in various ways. Many of our inhabitants, who were obliged to disperse, have not yet been able to return, and most of those who are at home, are impoverished by the pressure of the times. However, we have abundant reason to be thankful to the Lord, for having so graciously helped us through, and granted us to see better days. The rich harvest of last season has brought down the exorbitant prices of almost all articles of food. Wheat and all kinds of grain are comparatively cheap. A muid of wheat, which had risen as

high as 47 rix-dollars is now bought at Capetown for ten, and here for eight. A muid weighs from 180 to 200 lbs. or is as much as three Winchester bushels. Barley and oats are now three rix-dollars per muid. Last year we were engaged in cooking and distributing victuals to upwards of 300 poor persons, and now my time is much taken up in distributing seed-corn, keeping accounts of what is given, and taking care that all that is given is committed to the ground. As soon as the people have done ploughing, we shall be diligently engaged in building walled cottages; at least we shall not neglect to encourage our Hottentots, and I have every reason to believe, that they will follow our advice. In this respect I believe, that the painful experience made of last and this year has done much good. By what has been done for them, they have been more than ever convinced, that in the most disinterested manner we endeavour to promote their welfare, and hence they are more than ever attached to us, and more willing to follow our advice. This is one of the many great advantages, for which we are indebted to British liberality, a subject, which we never think of without the most lively emotions of gratitude to the Lord, and those whom He has raised up to act as His chosen instruments. Indeed I am now fully convinced, that, by the mercy of God, the heavy visitation of last year, will eventually not only do no harm to the mission, but prove a blessing. Much depends upon our making the most prudent use of the means which God has given us, and under this conviction we feel it our duty to be early and late attentive to the nature of our people's wants and circumstances. Among outward improvements, the chief, and even the greatest curiosity about Gnadenthal, is our bridge, as no one person has moved a hand in the work but the Hottentots of Gnadenthal, and as there is no other bridge in the whole colony; the bridge over the Palmite river having been washed away last year.

"Yesterday, we received a message from Hemel en Aarde, with the unpleasant news, that Sister Leitner was very ill, in consequence of a wound in one of her hands, made by an instrument which appears to have been poisoned. Here, at Gnadenthal, we are all, thank God, well in health."

"*July 28th*, 1823.

"Little did I think, when I last wrote to you, that I should so soon have to communicate the painful intelligence, that one of our number has been called into eternity. But I must now inform you, that it has pleased God to take home to eternal rest, our worthy Sister Stein. She would have been the last I should have supposed to be a candidate for eternity; but our thoughts are not the thoughts of Him, with whom are the issues of life and death. His dealings often appear to us, short-sighted mortals, mysterious and incomprehensible, but knowing that He does all things well, we humbly submit to His dispensations, though we cannot but feel the affliction, and with her husband, mourn over the loss of so valuable a member of our family. Sister Stein had been expecting her delivery for some time, and was taken in labour on the 18th, in the evening. Though it appeared tedious, yet no danger was apprehended, and as there is no physician within sixty English miles of us,

we could rely on the midwife, who is a genuine Hottentot, and whose skill is generally acknowledged. However, as some fears began to be expressed, we sent a message to Stellenbosch, and the gentleman to whom we applied, very kindly hastened to her assistance. But before he arrived, Sister Stein had departed this life. Every means were used to save the mother, but without effect, and on the 24th. she fell asleep in Jesus. She was well prepared for her important change, and her sick-bed presented a most edifying scene. Here death in no way appeared as a king of terrors, but as a peaceful messenger. She fell asleep as a weary child, was sensible and composed to the last moment, settled all her affairs, took an affectionate leave of her husband and the Brethren and Sisters present, and of my children, to whom she was much attached, and concluded with kind salutations to her parents and all absent friends. When the account of her departure was made known to the congregation, and at her funeral on the 25th, numberless tears were shed, as a proof how much she was esteemed and beloved by all. Her husband deeply feels his loss, and has indeed lost a wife of rare excellence. She was a most amiable woman. The Mission has been deprived of one of its best female assistants, zealous in the cause, and possessing peculiar gifts for the situation which she filled.

"On this mournful occasion, we had also a visit from Brother Leitner and his wife, from Hemel en Aarde. The latter was fast recovering the hurt in her left hand. They are both content and happy in their new station, and have the pleasure to see, that the Word of the Cross is the power of God unto salvation, in all places, and among all classes of mankind. Ten of the patients have, at their earnest request, been admitted as candidates for baptism, and two adults were baptized. Some disturbance is occasioned in the peaceful course of our congregation, by recruiting for the Cape corps. It is a great hardship in many cases. Government is well disposed towards the Hottentots, but there is a necessity for their being employed in defence of the country."

"*August* 29*th*, 1824.

"On the 11th instant, I was favoured with your interesting letter of the 1st of April, together with Periodical Accounts and Missionary Registers. I have just finished the perusal of these publications, and cannot lay them aside, without feelings of the warmest gratitude to God, for the encouragement and edification thereby afforded me. In the pages of the latter, the whole religious world is, as it were, seen in motion and activity, to further the kingdom of Christ, and to pour light on a benighted world; and this glorious light, to which the words of our Saviour, Luke x, 24, are strikingly applicable, cannot fail to make us more zealous in the cause, and call forth our stumbling energies. Thus at least I have been frequently benefited by this work, and especially in these days, for which I give thanks to the Lord.

"No less encouragement did we derive from the numerous list of contributors towards our relief, annexed to No. 99, of the Periodical Accounts, which none of us could read without imploring the Divine blessing upon them all. To me, in particular, it was an additional en

joyment, to find in that catalogue the names of so many, with whom I have the pleasure to be personally acquainted. It is not only the considerable amount of the donations, for which we feel so grateful, and by which we are so much encouraged, but we look upon this noble display of generosity as an undoubted proof, that our friends feel anxiously interested in the prosperity of this Mission, and include us and the cause we are favoured to serve, in their prayers before the throne of grace. It is this consideration which renders their munificence so valuable to us, and fills our hearts with feelings of the most lively gratitude. At the same time, we are thereby awakened to consider our own ways. Seeing how many kind friends we have, and what exertions are made in our behalf, the thought naturally arises in our minds, Are we deserving of all this kindness? And this thought, while it tends to humble us, at the same time encourages us to devote ourselves anew to our Saviour's service, and to do the work committed to us with renewed zeal and faithfulness, in order, that as far as our feeble strength goes, the sacrifices of our kind friends may not be made in vain, but the spiritual and temporal prosperity of the Mission be thereby promoted. Such has been the effect of the present unexpected display of Christian charity in our behalf, in the minds of all my fellow-labourers, which is indeed far more worth, than even the great external help thereby afforded. Our Saviour grants His blessing to our united endeavours. As long as I have been here in Africa, I do not remember ever to have had so frequent visits of Hottentots, who with earnestness inquire, what they must do to be saved, or otherwise as advice, in the concerns of their immortal souls, as in the course of this month. In the beginning of this week particularly, my door was crowded with people of this description. This was chiefly occasioned by a solemn meeting with our communicants last Sunday afternoon, at which we delivered kind salutations to them, from the Brethren and Fathers in Europe, and explained to them, how much interest is felt by children of God in Europe, in their spiritual prosperity. By these assurances the whole assembly was deeply affected, and numbers came afterwards, on purpose, to desire me to express their thanks to their sympathizing friends, and declared, with tears, that it is their most earnest desire to devote themselves to our Saviour, and to remain faithful to Him. Hundreds desired particularly to be recommended to your prayers, each commissioning me in his own way, to explain to you the state of his mind. You must however forgive me, that I am unable to give you either the list of individuals, or the contents of their messages; for there was such a number of them, that I had no leisure to note down what they said, nor did they leave me time for it. How different a scene from that which I had the pain to witness a twelvemonth ago! Then all was misery and despondency, but now nothing but cheerfulness and glowing gratitude for the numberless mercies of God towards them.

"The Hottentots have now done ploughing, and no less than 90 muids, or 270 Winchester bushels of wheat, have been distributed for seed, and committed to the ground, besides what some of them have sown of barley or wheat of their own. Hitherto the weather has been

favourable. In the last days of July, we had most violent rains, by which the river Zonderend rose as high as last year. The water however has done us no harm, but, on the contrary, been productive of much good. In Groenekloof the gardens of the missionaries, and probably also of the Hottentots, have suffered by the torrents, and it appears to be necessary to widen the channel of the rivulet, in order to avoid such misfortunes in future. The buildings are all safe. I have long ago desired Brother Clemens to send me the account of the expenses for the repair of the church, which I will communicate to you. I guess the job to have cost about 4000 rix-dollars, (£320. The foundation was found to be quite sound, and there is no doubt but the gable fell merely from the power of the continual rains: the bricks, though burnt, attracting moisture, and being impregnated with saltpetre, they crumbled. We shall be able to do little in the way of building till after the harvest, when we hope to see more of our people at home, for many of them are still absent, in consequence of the distress of last year. Meanwhile we will encourage those who are on the spot, to prepare for the work, by laying foundations, clearing away the rubbish, cutting reed for thatching, &c.

"Your proposal of expending part of the money collected, in the purchase of bullocks, for those Hottentots who have suffered most by loss of cattle last year, cannot be executed without various difficulties, and we therefore prefer to adopt measures, whereby the same object may be obtained, though more indirectly, for instance, by finding employment for the most industrious, which will enable them to purchase cattle out of their earnings. Thus I know, that the employment which we found for them, in finishing the bridge, for which they were reasonably paid, has enabled several of them to increase their little herds. About 30 bullocks have been purchased by our Hottentots, in the course of the last three months. We have, however, bought 25 bullocks out of the fund, in order thereby to assist the most indigent, and to do various work for the public good, but these will not be distributed among individuals. A day or two ago, I had a letter from Brother Hornig, from which I learnt with great pleasure, that the mill and pump, constructed at Enon, are both at work, and that the Hottentots were busy ploughing on Stubble's place. The steward of Hemel en Aarde is a young Hottentot, born at Gnadenthal, who for many years has been in the service of Brother Leitner, and who has learnt to read, write and cypher. It is perhaps the first instance of a Hottentot holding any thing like a responsible situation under Government, except as serjeant in the Cape corps.

"All the missionaries here are in perfect health, except Sister Thomsen. We live together in love and harmony, and enjoy the peace of God. All beg to be kindly remembered, and desire you to express their sincere thanks to all friends and benefactors, particularly to the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, to the members of the London Association, and all similar associations, and our generous friends at Bath and Bristol, Dublin, &c. Your affectionate Brother,

H. P. HALLBECK."

Extracts of letters from Brother AUGUST CLEMENS, *at Groenekloof, the last dated*

"*November 12th* 1823.

"FOR the present I am stationed at Groenekloof; Brother Bonatz, after his return from Europe, having been called to Gnadenthal. I have entered upon my labours here, in reliance upon the help of the Lord, with a consciousness of my insufficiency, particularly as, since Brother Leitner is gone to Hemel en Aarde, I have very little assistance in the ministry. We have indeed passed through a time of much distress and anxiety, and if our merciful Saviour had not supported us, we might have been ready to despair. But He has heard our prayers. He knows our wants, and we have experienced His help, both in our internal and external circumstances. To repair the loss and damage sustained by the storms and floods required great exertion, and both we and our Hottentots have had enough to do.

"We have widened the ditch behind the dike, to give the water more vent, in case of a future flood, and constructed a mound of large stones towards the garden, to defend it from being again destroyed, great part of it having been torn up and washed away. The aloes, growing among the rocks in that quarter are a great ornament, and have been as little injured by these operations as possible. The next work we took in hand was the rebuilding of the northwest gable-end wall of our church, for which, and for other repairs, we made 50,000 bricks. We bless God for enabling us to finish all this work, without harm to any one employed. Many improvements also have been added in our premises, with which the Governor, passing through, expressed much satisfaction; but there is yet much wanting, to give them that appearance of regularity and order which we wish to see in our settlements, and hope to accomplish in due time.

"I perceive that the character of the Hottentots belonging to this congregation differs somewhat from that of those at Gnadenthal, owing to their vicinity to the Cape, and more frequent intercourse with Europeans. We therefore also find them more liable to be seduced to irregularities, and had some painful instances of it in the beginning of the year, but it pleased the Lord to bring the trangressors to repentance, and our sorrow was turned into joy by the blessing He laid upon the celebration of the Passion-week and Easter, when we truly felt His presence with us, and a renewed deep impression was made upon all hearts, of His love to sinners, and of what it cost our Saviour to deliver us from the power of sin, and from eternal death. Such seasons prove a great comfort and encouragement to us, His poor servents. Twenty persons were added, or re admitted to the congregation. Six adults and one child were baptized. One of the former was a Hottentot maid, who seemed near her end, and, at her earnest request, received holy baptism in our house. She afterwards recovered. Pray for us, that we may continue to serve the Lord with gladness and with success.

"We hear with pleasure, that Brother Voigt, who went from hence

to Gnadenthal, is better, and hope that the change will contribute towards his complete recovery.

"We have been blessed with a very abundant harvest of barley and oats. The barley has every where been spared. Our wheat looks well, but there are again reports of the mildew having injured the wheat in other places. At present (November 12th,) most of our people are from home, and engaged in the harvest. They returned, however, in the week before the Communion, though they were obliged, soon after its celebration, to leave us again. This proves, however, that they feel spiritual hunger after the word of God, and the privileges of His house. He is indeed the friend of the poor and needy, despises none, but bears them with patience and long suffering; should we therefore not do the same?

"We pray the Lord richly to bless and reward those worthy persons in Great Britain and Ireland, who generously have considered and relieved our wants, and sent us help in the time of our distress. Commending this Mission to the prayers of all our Brethren and friends every where, and with cordial salutations to the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, we remain ever, &c.

(Signed) A. CLEMENS."

Extract of a Diary kept by Brother I. M. P. LEITNER, *at Hemel en Aarde.*

APRIL, 1823. It may be supposed, that the patients belonging to this institution, do not consider themselves brought hither to be instructed in the word of God, but to have been forced, against their will, to live in this place, as they are so unfortunate as to be afflicted with an incurable disorder, which being considered by many to be infectious, the Government hoped by this means to prevent its spread among the Hottentots. Thus there is a great difference in their tempers and manners, nor need we be surprised to find some of them rather disposed to be refractory. When I proposed to them to build a kind of shed, to protect us from rain during our religious worship, many of them expressed willingness to lend a hand, others however were not only averse to it, but sought by their influence to set others against the measure. On the 2d inst. therefore, I convened them, and represented the necessity of the co-operation of all in this public concern, and how ungrateful they must appear both towards God and our good Government, under which they enjoyed so much benefit both for soul and body. This, by God's blessing, produced the desired effect, and, on the following day, all of them set out for the mountains, to cut reed rushes and get timber; the latter however has become very scarce.

6*th.* During the sermon, unexpectedly, a violent shower occurred, and as the congregation would not disperse, we all got soaking wet.

Between this day and the 11th, we paid a visit to our Brethren at Gnadenthal, where we had business. A Hottentot educated by us, who can read and write, was meanwhile charged with the distribution of

provisions to the people, and we found every thing done by him in the best order.

On Sunday the 13th, the people showed such attention during divine service, that we were greatly encouraged. We have had here very violent rains, with much hail. On the 20th, during the praying of the litany, the congregation was obliged to separate for about an hour, on account of a violent shower, but returned to hear the sermon. They are now convinced of the want of some sort of cover.

25th. A man was confirmed for the first enjoyment of the Lord's Supper. It was a solemn service, and the Lord granted us to feel His presence among us.

May 2d. We had the pleasure to receive a visit from Brother Hallbeck.

4th. After service I was desired to visit a woman in the hospital. She was very weak, and on seeing me, said with a faint voice: "I may perhaps die to-day." Being asked, whether she had turned to our Saviour, for the pardon of her sins, her husband answered for her, that she had often offered up prayers, but not latterly; upon which she replied: "I am now too weak to pray aloud, but I do cry in silence to the Lord, to have mercy upon me, and to grant me remission of sins in His blood. Ah, to whom should I turn but to him! He alone can show me favour and mercy." I felt no objection to baptize this poor mourning sinner, and a number of serious persons having assembled in the large room, which could not even hold the congregation, I administered to her the holy sacrament of baptism, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. All present were deeply affected, and the Lord made it a season of great consolation, and refreshment to our own hearts.

8th. A Hottentot woman, *Theresa Klaas*, came to us and said: "I am very much distressed about my unhappy state of soul, and that I have so often offended God by my transgressions; I beg my dear teachers to pray for me, that our Saviour may have mercy upon me, and help me."

During the night we had a violent storm of thunder and lightning, but no damage was done.

13th. Some of the patients assisted us to make a water course and ditch, to enclose the orchard we are now planting.

21st. My wife was sent for to visit a sick woman in the hospital, who can no longer come to our meetings. She said she had been twice present, and added, "I wish to go to our Saviour, when I die, and not to be among those that are lost. I cry to Him to have mercy on me, and save me."

To-day I received, to my great satisfaction, a letter from the Colonial Secretary, informing me, that his Excellency the Governor had determined, to have a house built here for public worship. He had perceived the want of it from the report, which I send in quarterly. With the help of some patients, I began to make a water-course, for the convenience of the people, both to get water for drinking, and to bring it for irrigation into their garden, which will be a great help to them.

23*d*. I informed them of the good intention of our Governor, to have a chapel built for them, and encouraged them, as much as their strength would admit, to assist in its construction, and thus to render the expense to Government as small as possible. Immediately after the meeting broke up, all who could any way lend a hand, came and offered their services. I therefore chose a site, (forty feet by twenty-one,) between the hospital and the dwelling house: and without further delay, we began to dig the foundation. During the following day, some went to cut reed-rushes for thatching, others brought stones for the foundation, and some made bricks. But as winter is approaching, it may be some time before the building can be completed, as there is no timber here, but all must be brought from the river Sondereud, which in the rainy season is a difficult job.

24*th*. We spoke with the communicants, and were thankful to perceive in all of them a desire to grow in grace. Two men and four women partook of it with us on the 25th.

To-day two women departed this life, rejoicing in God their Saviour. One was called *Sanna Niemand*, a white woman, of whom this place was purchased by Government, for the erection of the hospital. She was afflicted with the Lazarus sickness (leprosy,) and was maintained here by the Government. As long as she was able, she attended our public worship. Being present at the first baptism administered here, she was greatly affected, and declared afterwards, that she never could have supposed that such blessing could attend the transaction, nor ever had heard such comfortable words for poor sinners, inviting them to Jesus their Redeemer. She was truly converted to the Lord, desired to depart and be with Him for ever, and felt full confidence, that, for the sake of His sufferings and atoning death, He would also in mercy receive her into His everlasting kingdom.

29*th*. Having undertaken the management of the building above alluded to, and to save Government the expense of a surveyor, I rode to Gnadenthal to confer with one of our neighbours respecting its construction, and the purchase of timber.

June 8*d*. Returning home in a violent rain, and my wife also having necessarily been exposed to it, by doing some work out of doors, we were both taken ill with a cold, which kept us confined for some days. Brother Stein arrived here on the 9th from Gnadenthal, to assist us, and having bled me, I soon grew better.

10*th*. *Noah Halfschlag*, a patient, brought here from Gnadenthal, departed this life. On visiting him, I found him well prepared for his end. He declared his firm faith in his Redeemer, and observed, that he had often longed to become a partaker of the Holy Communion, with the congregation, but that now our Saviour had reserved it for him in heaven, where he should, through His mercy, be admitted to sit down at His table, and enjoy Him for ever.

16*th*. Dr. Barry arrived here, and wished to regulate a common table for all the patients, and ordered, that their victuals should be dressed by persons in health. The patients were not satisfied with it, but would cook their own victuals. However, as the Docter insisted

upon it, they yielded, and each went and fetched his victuals out of the common kitchen quietly and in order. The rains continued during the greater part of this month.

Orders having been given by the Doctor, that whenever it was fine, the patients should go and bathe in the sea, and those that could not go being confined to their beds, there were but few hearers at our worship, and we were obliged to put off the Holy Communion on the 21st.

23d. A candidate was baptized on his death-bed. He was very weak, but exerted himself to sit upright, and though he could hardly move his fingers from the violence of the leprosy, folded his hands, when his whole soul seemed engaged in prayer, looking for mercy and salvation through the atoning death of Jesus.

On the 24th, after the funeral, we had the pleasure to see Brother Hallbeck, from Gnadenthal, arrive with us on a visit.

July 4th. Another of the patients, who showed real hunger and thirst after the word and grace of God our Saviour, was baptized. She answered the usual questions put to the candidates with great freedom and ferveney, and expressed her reliance on the mercy of Christ with uncommon cheerfulness. She departed on the day after, rejoicing, to the great edification of all present.

10th. In the morning, on opening the kitchen door a musk-cat ran into the house, and up stairs into the garret, among the firewood. In displacing the wood to get at and destroy this creature, as it is a very dangerous enemy to all poultry, my wife got a splinter into her hand, which probably had something poisonous on it, as it caused great pain and swelling, and confined her for some time to her bed. No means for her relief seemed to answer, and she suffered more pain from this accident, than she had ever before experienced.

13th. We received a parcel of clothing and other things, sent for the use of the poor Hottentots, as also a small bell. The clothes were distributed on the 14th, and received with due thankfulness. We also promised to such as should show diligence in working in their fields and gardens, and in other employments, some small recompense.

15th & 16th. We spoke with all our people. In some, we discovered a real desire to be saved, but in others, the love of sin still predominates. An old man said: "This morning, when I awoke, and the cock crew, I became suddenly alarmed about my lost condition, and began to pray." To the question, what he prayed for; he replied, "I said, O Lord Jesus! Thou art also my Lord and God, thou alone art gracious and merciful, have mercy upon me, forgive me all my sins, and do not suffer my soul to be lost."

In these days ten persons, in whom a desire after the salvation of their souls had been for some time manifest, were admitted as candidates for baptism, and two appointed for baptism on the 20th. One man, formerly excluded, was re-admitted.

24th. We received the afflicting information, that Sister Stein had departed this life at Gnadenthal, and being invited to attend the funeral, we went thither on the 26th, but came too late to be present at that solemnity. Returning on the 27th, we were not only detained by the

violence of the rain, but found great difficulty in crossing many little brooks, which had swelled to such a degree, that the water, in one place, entered our wagon. A poor woman had meanwhile departed this life, who had been a great sufferer.

August. The rains continued, and we were obliged to suspend our public worship. The Brethren Hallbeck and Stein, however, found their way to us. They were joined by the Landdrost of Zwellendam, Mr. Van Schoenberg, and we conferred with them about the best mode of constructing a kitchen, bake house, and chapel, according to the kind permission of the Government.

10*th.* Having favourable weather, our public service was well attended, and the Lord laid His blessing upon the preaching of the Word of Atonement. In the evening a discourse was delivered, preparatory to the enjoyment of the Lord's Supper on the 13th.

On the 12th, we planted several oaks about our house, and got our garden into order. Some of the patients helped us willingly, for which, however, they receive proper wages. In the evening, I addressed a discourse to a large company assembled in the common room of the hospital, during which great devotion and attention prevailed.

13*th.* This memorial-day of our Church was celebrated by us in the nearness of our Saviour, and in true unity of spirit, with all our dear Brethren and Sisters every where. We had a blessed participation of the Holy Communion with our few communicants.

14*th.* Dr. Barry came hither, and after due examination, nine persons received passports to return to their homes. They were such as had accompanied their diseased relatives or friends to this institution. We were engaged with some patients, in planting poplars.

The meetings were now regularly held in the hospital, and well attended.

September 2*d.* A sick woman received holy baptism. She spoke with great sincerity and fervency of her state of mind, and declared, that she cried daily to the Lord, that He would grant her the forgiveness of her sins, and by the merits of His precious blood-shedding and death, cleanse her from all unrighteousness.

To-day, some women came to us, and expressed their thankfulness to God, and to their good Government, for having granted permission for them to send their healthy children to Gnadenthal, to be there educated and instructed in the Christian religion.

4*th.* On visiting an old man to-day, I asked him, "Whether he thought seriously that he might perhaps soon be called out of this world, and knew what would become of his immortal soul, if he departed without the knowledge of God and his Saviour," to which he replied with the greatest indifference; "Well, I can't help it; I shall be lost." When I showed him the way of Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, he answered: "I feel no desire after these things." Another exclaimed; "But *I* pray to our Saviour, that He would forgive *my* sins and save *my* soul from destruction!"

8*th.* A woman died, who, though often visited, had never shown

any desire to hear and believe the gospel. The day before her death she sent for me, but I found her speechless. O that the Lord would show mercy to such poor hardened creatures!

On the 9th, I visited several patients in the hospital, and exhorted them, not to turn a deaf ear to the invitation, sent also unto them, in the gospel, particularly when they saw so many of their number taken out of this world, and that it might perhaps soon be their turn. One of them said; "Aye, it will go very hard with us, if we die in the state we are in now. We wish to be saved, but we do not like to become obedient to the precepts of the gospel." A slave, by religion a Mahometan, said: "I wish after death to go to a good place, but I cannot describe it." A woman exclaimed: "I think continually about our Saviour, and also about my sins." Being asked, "Whether she had prayed to Him for the pardon of her sins, and that His blood might plead also for her, she replied: "No, that I have not done hitherto."

14*th* Several strangers attended the public worship. We have hopes, that the word is a seed not sown in vain, but produces fruit in stillness, of which we have seen several encouraging proofs.

18*th*. A sick woman sent for me, desiring I would come and tell her something out of the word of God. She said with tears: "I am greatly oppressed in my heart, and cry daily to the Lord, to have mercy upon me, that my poor soul may not be lost, but saved by His power." I directed her not to cease calling upon Him, and assured her that He would fulfil His promise, and not cast out any poor sinner, coming unto Him for salvation.

20*th*. A serpent, about six feet long, was found at our goat-house and killed. A small hole was then discovered, close to her, in the ground, on opening which, another serpent, about four feet in length, and of the most venomous kind, was found in it. Both being killed, they were burnt to ashes, that nothing might remain of their skeletons, as the prick of a serpent's bone in a naked foot is said to be attended with dangerous consequences.

21*st*. The woman who had sent for me on the 18th, desired another visit: she looked at me with a cheerful countenance, and exclaimed: "I have found my Saviour; He has forgiven me all my sins. I now wait for His coming, to call me out of this world, in which I have nothing more to do. But I desire to be baptized, and to have the assurance, that He has washed me from all my sins in His precious blood." I had no objection to grant her request, and having answered all the questions put to the candidates, as prescribed in the Litany, with great fervency and emotion, I baptized her into the death of Jesus, and called her *Christina*. The peace and presence of our Saviour were truly felt, and many of the patients attended with great devotion.

29*th*. We received letters from Europe, and were glad to learn that the Directors of our Missions are well satisfied with the arrangements, made between the Governor and the Brethren here, for the care of this institution.

30*th*. Patients who are yet able to work were, during the month

past, very diligent in their gardens, and had also planted a considerable piece of land for the general use of the hospital. We were likewise employed in our own grounds, but as the soil is very coarse, and there is a want of manure, we do not expect a very rich crop in the beginning; yet we hope, by God's blessing, to reap as much as we may require for our own house-keeping.

We recommend ourselves, and the work committed to us in this place, to the remembrance and prayers of all our dear Brethren and friends every where, that the Lord may grant His blessing to our weak endeavours, to serve these poor people with the gospel.

J. M. P. LEITNER.

BIOGRAPHY

OF BROTHER JOHN HENRY DANKE,

Who departed this life at Cairo in Egypt, October 6, 1772.

He has transmitted to posterity the following account of himself.

I was born July 25, 1734, in the province of Stadeln in Hanover, and educated in the Lutheran persuasion. When I was about six years of age, my mother was taken very ill, so that some persons, standing at her bedside, remarked, that she was gone. In the middle of the night, I ran into the garden, and prayed to God on my knees, beseeching Him to restore my mother, promising I would then become a child of His. On this occasion I was drawn out into such a cordial conversation with Him, that it seemed to me as though He stood before me. He heard my prayer, and my mother was restored from that very hour. From that time it was impossible for me to commit sin with an undisturbed conscience, the above promise always recurring to my mind.

At the age of fourteen, I was, for the first time, admitted to the Lord's table. For three days together I could do nothing but weep, in consequence of the deep impressions I had received of the sufferings of Jesus. But my innate depravity re-appearing, and I not knowing Jesus as the Redeemer of my soul, I was terrified and began to combat sin in my own strength; but alas! sin gained the ascendancy over the better principle within.

At eighteen I entered the service of a family in the capacity of coachman. Here I launched out fully into the world; but living in such constant anxiety, that I was afraid to retire to rest at night; indeed I even thought that I was no longer permitted to draw near to God. While in this state of mind, a man one day came to me, and civilly addressed me thus: "My dear friend! I understand you are largely indulging yourself in the world, which I am very sorry for on your account. How much better for such a youth as yourself, to devote his life to God than to the devil. I would have you consider how greatly God loved us, that He gave his Son as a sacrifice for us! Are these the

grateful returns we are willing to make to Him, and shall we daily crucify the Lord Jesus? Did He not suffer enough for us already?"—These words pierced my soul, and I asked him, what I should do to reform my life? He replied: "Pray without ceasing to God, until you are assured of the remission of your sins." I acted up to the man's advice and really very often felt much comforted in my heart. But my state was like that of an infant constantly rising and falling, until I became acquainted with Mr. Crusius, a Lutheran minister at Bremen, to whom I paid frequent visits, that were very profitable to my soul. He loved me, and one day inquired how I set about to become a Christian. I then told him how often I prayed and what kind of books I read. He replied: "Ah! my dear friend! I am a preacher and have gone through a regular course of studies; but I have not yet done with Article II. of our Creed. Do you leave all your books and go straightway to Jesus. There was a little mountain outside of the walls of Jerusalem, called Golgotha, where your Jesus and mine, hung upon the cross for us; if thither you will repair in spirit, humble yourself at the foot of the cross, and be sprinkled with the blood flowing from Jesus' wounds, then you will be a child of God in one quarter of an hour!" While he thus spoke, an emotion pervaded my heart, which I had never felt before. That dear servant of God went on to tell me some more of his experience: my wit and my wisdom would not suffice to save me, when I beheld my lost condition; but I found grace in the manner I have advised you to seek pardon of your sins. I am now become a fool for Christ's sake; but as often as I pour out my heart before the Lord Jesus, I am more and more convinced that this is the right way, and that the Lord has his thousands on earth, to bear witness to this truth; but where they reside, I know not." The sermons and conversation of this minister who met with much obloquy, proved a great blessing to me; but not long after, he departed this life.

At that period I had not yet received grace and strength to resist sin, for I always became again subject to its power. At length I was tempted to indulge the deceitful idea that a Christian could not attain to a higher degree of holiness than merely to rise again after repeated falls; fortunately for me, however, a constant anxiety on account of it, tormented me.

During the seven years' war, I resolved to marry and settle myself as a pious citizen. Five days only were wanting for the execution of my design, when I was seized in the street and pressed into the king's service. No other alternative being left, I solicited a passport from government to go to the army, preferring to serve among the cavalry rather than among the infantry. I obtained the passport and had to leave my native country the very same day, being May 9, 1760. I repaired to the army at Paderborn, where Ferdinand, Prince of Brunswick, had his head-quarters. Here I was unjustly apprehended by the soldiers, and deprived of my passport and letters. They wanted me to serve among the infantry guards. On refusing to comply, I was put under arrest and delivered into the custody of five soldiers. I however

succeeded in making them all drunk and effecting my escape. I was still bent upon joining the cavalry; but that was impossible, as all the posts were occupied. I wandered about three days without meat or drink. Hunger at last drove me into a village to buy bread. On entering a tavern, the very same five soldiers from whom I had eloped, were there. My reception among them was such as I could expect. I was given in custody to a soldier, who was to take me to the regiment. At first this man treated me unkindly, but finally he had compassion on me, gave me half a pound of bread for all the money I had, and suffered me to run off. I fled into a wood, and lived there three days and three nights, until I was no longer able to walk, when a shepherd found me, who refreshed me with bread and water, and advised me to go to Holland. He took me overnight into his house, and as some of the people of his village were likewise going to travel thither, he concerted measures with them to that effect. Two days, however, previous to our setting out, the enemy discovered the place of my retreat. Soldiers and farmers arriving for the purpose of surrounding the house, I had but just time to escape by a back-door into the woods. Great as was my temporal distress, my spiritual anxiety was much greater; for I fancied that God had entirely cast me off on account of my sins. The shepherd's wife went in quest of me into the woods, and her husband followed her; but they dared not to take any further care of me, but just to leave me some provisions; whereupon I was compelled to prosecute my way alone. Next day I entered a wilderness, where I found a farm-yard, the proprietor of which received me into his house and would fain have detained me. Having rested three days, I went one morning into the woods and there besought God Almighty to help me forward on my journey to Holland. Presently two men came up with me who were travelling thither, and agreed that I should accompany them. I hastily ran to my benefactor, thanked him affectionately for all his kindness towards me, and set out with these men. At Zwoll, a gentlewoman called me from the street into her house, set meat and drink before me, and gave me as much provision along as served me until I reached Amsterdam. There I met with the captain of a vessel, who, being a child of God, on becoming more acquainted with me, not only allowed me a free passage, but even gave me some money into the bargain. May the Lord show mercy to all those who have commiserated me in my distress.

From Amsterdam I went with a companion about ten English miles up the country, and hired myself out to a farmer, who treated me like his own child; yet my mind was as much exercised as ever. At one time I heard some people making mention of Utrecht and I thought I ought to go there. But on arriving there, I was at a loss for work, and therefore proceeded on to Buenneek, near Zeyst, where I once more engaged myself to a farmer. After I had been there three months, being one Saturday evening out on the field with my employer, I heard some people at a distance blowing a delightful tune on trombones (Posaunen). My heart leaped for joy within me. I asked the farmer

whence the sound proceeded. He replied, "from Zeyst, the settlement of the Herrnhutters." I never before had heard this name mentioned and therefore inquired what kind of people they were; and whether they tolerated vice and immorality among them? He replied: "he could not exactly make such an avowal; still he would not say much in their favour." The words of Jesus very forcibly struck my mind: "Blessed are ye, when men shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake," I considered these words applicable to this people and felt a great desire to see some Herrnhutters. Soon after I went to Zeyst, immediately contracted an acquaintance with one of the Brethren, and had a very profitable conversation with him. He took me into a meeting of the congregation. There I seemed to be in a new world, and I was so ravished with the first sight I obtained of the congregation, that I could scarcely recollect where I was. Indeed it appeared to me as though I here heard Christ crucified preached for the first time in my life; my heart felt inexpressibly comforted, and I began to think that my case was not altogether hopeless. I was indisputably convinced that these people were true children of God. From that time, my visits were often and most profitably repeated. The Holy Spirit convinced me that the Lord had led me in such a wonderful way, in order to tear me away from the deceitful lusts of sin and Satan. Still I was yet but an almost Christian, longing to enjoy the vanities of the world, and at the same time desiring to be divested of the anxiety which oppressed my mind.

On Christmas Eve I was permitted to attend the meetings of the children and adults at Zeyst, and here it was that I enjoyed a bliss that beggars all description, when, for the first time, I experienced the Saviour's divine and sin-forgiving power in my heart. It was as though with Simeon I could take the child Jesus upon my arms of faith. I entered into a perpetual covenant with my Saviour, and for joy could not sleep all that night, but continued praising and thanking God. Early on the morning of Christmas day, I hastened again to Zeyst with the intention of telling the Brethren what the Saviour had done for me. Being already come near the town, on a sudden all my joy and happiness was gone. I was seized with such fear and horror as I thought would immediately sink me into hell. In this distress I cried to the Lord Jesus whether He had not shed His blood for me also?—whereupon I was led to reflect on His boundless love, which induced Him to suffer the cruel death on the cross. I was now enabled to believe, that He had taken my sins also upon Himself and atoned for them; they no longer burdened me and I felt like a new-born child. All my prayer was simply this: Ah my Lord my God!

The Brethren kindly interesting themselves for me, to my great joy procured a place for me, as coachman to Brother Jan Verbeek. This happened in 1760, the same year that I left my native country. Some months after, I received permission to move into the single Brethren's house where I learnt the cabinet-maker's trade, and in May, I was received into the Brethren's church. In May, 1762, I enjoyed the Lord's

Supper for the first time with the congregation. It is impossible for me to describe my feelings at that solemn season. The grace then communicated to me, will call forth my peculiar gratitude to my Redeemer in eternity. Enjoying so many mercies and privileges, I could not but be very much concerned for the salvation of my parents and only brother. I daily remembered them in my prayers before the Lord and wrote them my past experience of Jesus' love and power. He was pleased to make this an occasion of bringing them to reflection likewise. My father left this world as a pardoned sinner, and just before breathing his last, he said to my mother and brother: "O that you were also where I know my son John Henry to be!" In pursuance of this request, they asked for permission and obtained leave to settle at Zeyst, and in 1766, I had the great pleasure of welcoming them hither.

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